

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2014

PRESENT: COUN R CURTIS (CHAIR)

Mesdames: J I Measor, S Simpson, C Baty, L Wood,  
M Milsom, M J Thompson & V Watson

Messrs: S Miles, D Sillito, W M Jeffrey, C Watkins, L Cook,  
R J Curtis, R Kyle, J Alvey, G Cowie, C J Metcalfe, C Robbins,  
D Milsom & A Watson

**MEMBERS WERE REMINDED OF THE NEED TO DISCLOSE ANY INTEREST PREJUDICIAL OR PERSONAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT.**

PRIOR TO THE MEETING, A 15 MINUTE “OPEN SESSION” WAS HELD TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUT QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL. MR TAYLOR & MR O’NEILL RESIDENTS FROM HORDEN WERE PRESENT AT THE MEETING.

The residents thanked the Town Council for the opportunity to come along to the meeting and address Members with their issues. Mr O’Neill had lived in the same home for over 40 years next to the pony fields, and he reported that the meadow area had always been cut. He said it wasn’t now and looked awful. He asked for the Town Council to reconsider its maintenance and cut the whole area.

Mr Taylor then addressed the meeting about problems he had with off road motor bikes and horses on the area. He asked the Town Council to make an example of those continuing to graze their horses without permission. Whilst appreciating there would be a cost to any type of enforcement efforts

he felt that this should be carried out by the Town Council he was worried there could be serious injuries caused to the general public by loose horses. Mr Taylor suggested this could be done by authorities working together to tackle the problem effectively. He also asked for the attention to the access areas to the site by motorbikes similar to action taken previously in using surplus spoil from the cemetery.

Mr Taylor and Mr O'Neill again thanked the Council for allowing them the chance to come and speak at the meeting. The Mayor thanked the residents for coming along and assured they would be given feedback from the meeting in due course.

This matter was discussed further and agreed that this was a problem across the region. It was agreed that the residents be assured that the Town Council was doing all it could to work with other agencies in partnership to try and find an answer to this problem.

**RESOLVED these matters be discussed further with the Horticultural Superintendent and appropriate feedback be given to Mr Taylor and Mr O'Neill.**

182. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been submitted and accepted on behalf of Councillors K Liddell, (father is ill) & F Price, (ill).

183. POLICE - UPDATE

The Mayor welcomed PCSOs Amanda Jepson and Natalie Holmes to the meeting. Details were given of incidents reported since the last meeting and the ways in which the Police were dealing with them. They spoke on the issues that had been raised at the meeting that night by local residents. It was reported warning notices had been issued in various areas and details of the partnership working with the various housing providers was given. There had been a spate of egg throwing and initiatives going into the schools, CCTV, visits to parents etc were outlined.

Parking around the Denehouse School Area was given as a problem for

motorists. It was reported that the parking enforcement officers had been asked for their support with the school gate parking issue and Durham County Council had suggested enforcement cameras. Mention was made of a trial scheme at Newton Aycliffe where Ron Hogg had been involved and the Officers were asked if they were aware of it. They said they were not. Progress was given regarding the banning letters being sent in connection with Asda and McDonalds. It was asked if an update could be given on a recent break in at the Leisure Gardens at Lowhills Road; this was not on the list of incidents to hand it was assured a report would be given if possible to the next meeting. Reports were made of incidents involving taxi drivers in the Town with accidents caused by dangerous maneuvers. Parking across dropped curbs was continuing to be a problem, especially outside the Methodist Church.

The Officers reported there was to be an improved service offered to victims of crime with a 7 day ring back.

**RESOLVED that the information given, be noted and the Officers be thanked for their attendance.**

184. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2014 & SPECIAL MEETING ON THE 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2014

Matters Arising

(i) Minute Number 169 should read Passfield Ward Members, not Acre Rigg. **RESOLVED this be amended.**

(ii) THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2014, BUDGET 2014/15 should be amended.

The Leader asked that the minutes include reference the fireworks event being cancelled due to Health & Safety requirements, not the cost. Councillor Sillito wished it recorded that he disagreed with this statement as he felt that it was the will to discuss the health & safety requirements that was the problem. He felt the event could still have taken place.

185. THE REPORT OF THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE OF THE 17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed. It was asked that it be noted the menu, midnight toast and

ticket prices were all for the 2014 event.

186. THE REPORT OF THE SHOTTON HALL SUB COMMITTEE OF THE 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

Matters Arising

Councillor Miss V Watson gave verbal feedback that she had received from friends etc. on the catering service. The Deputy Town Clerk advised she would report this to the Facilities Manager.

**RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

187. THE REPORT OF THE SHOW COMMITTEE OF THE 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 4(f) **RESOLVED it be noted that at this meeting it had been agreed the number of skips be reduced from 5 to 4.**

188. THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were not approved.

Matters Arising

(i) Minute Number 192 – EDPIP

It was reported that unfortunately the event they had hoped to host had to be cancelled.

**RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

189. THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

190. THE MINUTES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were not approved.

Matters Arising

(i) Minute Number 70 – Overtime Report

**RESOLVED the acting up arrangements at the Pavilion, be re visited**

**and a report be brought back at the earliest opportunity regarding these arrangements.**

(ii) Minute Number 71 – Absence Report

A Local Member stated that the query on the under spend on the Town Clerk's salary was to be used to increase capacity to support the Town Clerk not to be spent elsewhere.

**RESOLVED this amendment, be noted.**

(iii) Minute Number 72 – Trade Union

Further details on this matter were requested. The Deputy Town Clerk advised that this was a twelve weeks course, one day a week. Any additional expenses ie traveling would be paid by the Trade Union.

**RESOLVED this information, be noted.**

(iv) Minute Number 73

**RESOLVED the Standing Orders be updated as a matter of urgency and submitted to the Finance & General Purposes Committee to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014.**

(v) Training Plan - it was suggested this should be an annual process and it was asked when would it be submitted to committee.

**RESOLVED a Training Plan for both staff and Councillors be produced annually.**

191. THE MINUTES OF THE PAVILION MANAGEMENT BOARD OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed. The Leader asked that the reasons for the Councillor's apologies be noted; Councillor Cook was at a presentation and Councillor Jeffrey was at a family meal. It was also noted that wherever possible the meetings be held in The Pavilion but if it was not available then Shotton Hall would be used.

192. THE REPORT OF THE CLERK'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member,

were agreed.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 43 – Peterlee Pumas, donation

**RESOLVED this be reconsidered at the next meeting.**

193. THE MINUTES OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 67 Peterlee in Bloom

It was asked that the application forms for the competition be circulated prior to them being available for the public to apply.

**RESOLVED the:-**

- (i) Best Street Award be included in next years competition, (so that there would be no budget implications for this year);**
- (ii) copies of the draft application forms be circulated prior to issue to the general public;**
- (iii) contact be made with the Leisure Gardeners as soon as possible to get make the necessary arrangements for this years Competition.**

194. TO CONSIDER & AGREE THE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR APRIL & THE AGM

**RESOLVED the meetings be held as follows:-**

<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Finance, Establishment &amp; Planning</b>
<b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Clerks Advisory &amp; Parks &amp; Cemetery</b>
<b>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	<b>Mayor's &amp; Council</b>
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Annual Elector's Meeting and AGM</b>

195. POLITICAL LEADER'S REPORT

Councillor Jeffrey advised he had attended one or two meetings and that NALC had appointed a new Chief Executive, Jonathan Owen.

**RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

196. SPOKESPERSON OF THE FAIR & INDEPENDENT PARTY'S REPORT

Councillor Watson reported he had been contacted by several residents about the increase in the council tax of 4.9% and they wanted to know what they were paying for.

He also asked if progress could be chased up with the development of the Tesco site.

**RESOLVED an update be requested on this planning development.**

197. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC  
IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE FOLLOWING  
ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED, THE COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO  
PASS THE FORMAL RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND  
PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING, PURSUANT TO THE PUBLIC  
BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) ACT, 1960 & THE LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985.

198. POLICIES

It was suggested there needed to be a timetable for all policies to be updated and then performance managed. There needed to be a full re draft of the Policy file and this should be brought to Members to agree.

**RESOLVED that a full policy update be carried out as soon as possible.**