

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON TUESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2014

PRESENT: COUN R CURTIS (CHAIR)

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

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

**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. THERE WERE NO RESIDENTS PRESENT  
AT THE MEETING.

200. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been submitted and accepted on behalf of  
Councillors F Price, (ill), C Robbins, (ill) and L Cook, (at work).

201. POLICE - UPDATE

The Mayor welcomed PCSOs Nicola Bowman and Carol McCombe to the  
meeting. The Officers reported on the total number of incidents and then  
broke the number of calls and reports down into the various categories.

Officers were pleased to report that incidents and calls for McDonalds and Asda had reduced significantly and she felt that this was a result of the hard work of Officers and the support given by the Town Council. Details were given on school gate parking operations with the dates visited and the action taken. It was asked that Shotton Hall and Denehouse Schools receive attention also.

Good News stories were shared with Members and reference was made to the re launch of the Edenhill Resident's Association on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014 at Eden Lane Community Building, and Members were encouraged to go along and support this.

Several matters were given for the Officers' attention as follows:-

- Progress with the pilot scheme in Newton Aycliffe, (supported by Ron Hogg);
- Youths running across the road on Essington Way causing a danger to themselves and motorists;
- Youths riding bikes on the Shinwell Centre roof;
- Milk etc being stolen from doorsteps;
- Operation of takeaways out of hours;
- Food being taken out of local shops' rubbish bins – which was of social concern, not one of law and order;
- Parking on footpaths on Lowhills Road next to Acre Rigg Social Club.

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

202. THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were not approved.

**RESOLVED a full review be undertaken of the Committee Structure, cycle of meetings etc.**

203. THE REPORT OF THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE OF THE 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

204. THE REPORT OF THE SHOTTON HALL SUB COMMITTEE OF THE 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were not approved. Councillor G Cowie was to be recorded as being in attendance, and with the previous minutes the Leader asked for the insertions submitted to be removed.

It was also noted that under Minute Number 35(iv) the Chairman had reported that the Facilities Manager already had the authority and did deal with complaints that came into him by customers using Shotton Hall Banqueting Suites.

**RESOLVED that the insertions that had been submitted previously, be deleted.**

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

206. THE REPORT OF THE HEALTH & SAFETY JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

Councillor A Watson wished Mrs Hugill well in her new role as Trade Union Representative. He also asked about the quorum requirements for this Sub Committee, which were clarified and accepted.

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

207. THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were not approved.

Matters Arising

(i) Minutes

As raised for the Council Minutes at item 202 above, there was the query relating to matters being in the public set of minutes produced. The Leader explained that the minutes were incorrect and should not include the extract as submitted by a Member, as discussed fully above.

**RESOLVED that:-**

- (i) the insertions that had been submitted previously, be deleted.**
- (ii) further legal advice be awaited on the matters raised regarding shredding of draft, unapproved minutes.**

(ii) Minute Number 148 - Eden Lane Contract

The Leader asked was the leak of information from the Office or Members and had the Town Clerk investigated this. It was **RESOLVED this be clarified.**

(iii) **RESOLVED the Statement submitted by Councillor Watson – Call for resignation of Councillors, be included in these minutes and taken from the Establishment Committee Minutes.**

208. THE MINUTES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were not approved.

209. THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 47 – Planning Applications

**RESOLVED that the action taken in objecting to the application for housing at York Road, supporting local residents, be endorsed.**

210. THE MINUTES OF THE EDEN LANE COMMUNITY BUILDING STEERING GROUP OF THE 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 32 (iv)

It was asked had the necessary Fire Risk Assessments now been supplied to Stonham/Home Group. It was confirmed this was in hand, they had been supplied at the time of the request and updated copies were now required and would be supplied as requested.

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

211. THE REPORT OF THE CLERK'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed

Matters Arising

Minute Number 47 – Peterlee Pumas - Donation

**RESOLVED it be noted in exchange for being a match sponsor at £120.00, the Town Council would receive an advert in the program, be mentioned on their web site, 2 complimentary tickets to Player of the Year Presentation Night.**

212. THE MINUTES OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF THE 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed, subject to Councillor S Simpson's apologies being recorded.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 76(d) Advertising on Roundabouts

**RESOLVED this letter this letter be sent in the Chairman of the Parks & Cemetery name, Councillor Metcalfe, and it include issues relating to risk assessments and obstacles that these signs caused, the income being received etc.**

213. SELECTION OF NEW VICE PRESIDENT FOR THE COUNTY ASSOCIATION

**RESOLVED Councillor W M Jeffrey be nominated by the Town Council to the County Association.**

214. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Details of planning Applications received as follows were given for Member's consideration:-

- (i) 25 Egremont Grove
- (ii) 80 Beverley Way

Change of use from Retail (A1) to hot food takeaway (A5)

- (iii) 14 Bruce Place
- (iv) 7 Bewley Grove
- (v) 45 Stainton Way

**RESOLVED an objection be lodged to the change of use at Beverley to takeaway on the grounds that there were sufficient take aways in the area.**

215. POLITICAL LEADER'S REPORT

Councillor Jeffrey advised he would be attending meetings on behalf of the Town Council. He expressed his concern at the damage being suffered by the furniture and fittings in the Council Chamber and asked that the room be inspected before and after use by the Facilities Team.

**RESOLVED the information given, be noted and the Facilities Team be asked to monitor the use of the Council Chamber and condition of the furniture and fittings.**

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

Councillor A Watson congratulated the Mayor on his successful year in Office. He had raised a lot of money for his charity and had been an excellent ambassador for the Town.

He advised that the complaint made by 5 Town Council Members to the Standards Board had been upheld advising that training was required.

Councillor Watson that re affirmed his opinion that the Leader was a position that did not exist. He explained it was ultra vires and asked would any of the Members present be prepared to go to Court to defend any challenge made on this. Councillor Alvey confirmed he would. Councillor Watkins commented that this had been voted on previously. Councillor Watson referred to other Councils where this role had been dropped. The Leader made reference to the NALC publication, Local Councils Explained, where reference was made to the role of Leader.

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

217. GRIEVANCE LODGED BY THE TOWN CLERK

Prior to raising this matter, the Mayor made sure all Members present at the meeting were in the Council Chamber and then advised that he had received a formal grievance submitted by the Town Clerk. He reported the appropriate independent specialist advice had been sought, in full accordance with the Council's procedures. Until this has been progressed there would be no debate or discussion on issues contained within it. This item was for information only and the Mayor assured he would keep the Council duly advised on progress.

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