

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> NOVEMBER 2014

PRESENT:- COUN D MILSOM (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- K Liddell, S Simpson & L Wood

Messrs:- S Miles, D Sillito, W M Jeffrey, C Watkins, L Cook,  
R Kyle, J Alvey, G Cowie, C J Metcalfe, C Robbins & 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.

106. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was reported that Councillor Baty had contacted the office to tender her apologies for this meeting and for each subsequent meeting on the grounds of ill health, until such time as she could be in contact regarding her return to the Council.

There was a vote taken on whether to accept these apologies and it was **RESOLVED that the Council approve the reasons submitted for absence from Councillor Baty on the grounds that she was ill, and her apologies for absence be recorded.**

107. POLICE

The Police were not available at the meeting but were to send a copy of their report for Members.

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

108. THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

(i) Edenhill Ward – Notice of Election of Town Councillor

It was reported that an election was to be held for Town Councillor in the EdenHill Ward.

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

(ii) Peterlee Parking – Evening Enforcement – Offer to meet

**RESOLVED arrangements be made for evening enforcement to take place.**

(iii) Peterlee Leisure Gardens Association Split

Councillor Watson asked that Members be kept fully advised with progress with this split.

**RESOLVED this course of action be agreed to.**

(iv) Appointment of Chairman & Vice Chairman of the Show Committee

It was felt that it should have been recorded that a vote was taken for these appointments.

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

109. THE REPORT OF THE MAYOR’S COMMITTEE OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

110. THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SHOTTON HALL SUB COMMITTEE OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved, subject to Councillor A Watson being recorded as a member of the Sub Committee, not as an observer.

111. THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

(i) Minute Number 68 – Event Plan

Members were circulated with a copy of the event plan for their approval. This would be used in the budget process once agreed.

**RESOLVED** the event plan be agreed in principle and the funding of these events be considered further at the budget meeting.

(ii) Minute Number 72 - Social Media & the Local Press

**RESOLVED** as agreed Standing Orders be amended to reflect these changes.

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

113. THE MINUTES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved, subject to item 41 being amended.

114. THE MINUTES OF THE PAVILION MANAGEMENT BOARD OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 85 – Events Management Team

**RESOLVED** the Town Council adopt the procedures and

**paperwork for future events held on Town Council owned land.**

115. THE REPORT OF THE TWINNING SUB COMMITTEE OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

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

Councillor A Watson felt that the exclusion of the press and public was not relevant in terms of organisations applying for grants. It was agreed that further advice be obtained on the rights of access and the recording of Working Parties, Sub Committees and the Clerk's Advisory Committee.

**RESOLVED advice be obtained on this matter.**

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

118. LICENSING – MINOR VARIATION RECEIVED

The Oaklands, Durham Way

Proposed Variation – to remove an embedded condition under the heading “The protection of children from harm” from the premises licence and add a new condition relating to the accommodation of young people within the premises

**RESOLVED no objections or comment be offered on this variation.**

119. NOTIFICATION OF TAX BASE & REQUEST FOR PRECEPT 2015/16

Members were circulated with a copy of the notification of the council tax base for Peterlee along with a request for the Parish Precept Form to be completed and returned for no later than Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015, at the latest.

**RESOLVED a Special Meeting be held to consider and agree the budget for 2015/16.**

120. FIREWORK DISPLAY 2014 – EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS & APPRECIATION

Members were circulated with expressions of appreciation received from members of the public following the recent firework display on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2014. Whilst there had been some issues with the traffic management and road closure used for the first time, it was agreed the traffic management and traffic flow was much improved to last year.

Councillor Simpson reported on feedback she had received from a family visiting from Ireland and all in all comments were very positive. It was suggested this be discussed in more detail at the Show Working Party when the Organiser would be in attendance.

**RESOLVED this event be considered in more detail at the next Show Working Party Meeting.**

121. SPOKESPERSON OF THE MAJORITY POLITICAL PARTY'S REPORT

Councillor Jeffrey reported on parking issues in the Town Centre in relation to restrictions imposed by car park owners. He understood shoppers were receiving parking fine notices and this was a difficult issue as the cars parks were in private ownership with a number of Agents.

He reported on the recent success of local gymnast Miss Sophie Allen who had recently been placed 9<sup>th</sup> in the World Championships. She had also been awarded a Silver Medal in Portugal.

Members all agreed Miss Allen was a very talented young lady and they were very proud of how well she was doing in her sport, especially at such a young age.

**RESOLVED a letter of commendation be sent to Miss Allen and her family for her recent achievements.**

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

Councillor Watson reported on how disappointed he and local residents were at the decisions being made by Durham County Council in relation to the future of the Whitehouse at Eden Lane and that he understood that three expressions of interest had been made previously for the building. He felt that local residents should have been fully consulted on the building's future. He felt this building was an important part of Peterlee's heritage and reported that a petition had been handed into Durham County Council asking for the planned demolition to be halted. Councillor Jeffrey assured the Town Council had fought hard to keep this building open and in use during the time of local government re organization with the former Easington District Council.

Councillor Watson made reference to the history of the former maternity hospital site at Littlethorpe, Easington and that he felt that this should be fully investigated before any building work commenced at the site and that all interested Parties should be spoken to and consulted.

**RESOLVED the contents of the verbal report be noted.**

123. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC  
IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED, THE COMMITTEE PASSED 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.

124. STAFFING – MANAGER VACANCY AT THE PAVILION

Further consideration was given to the current vacancy of Facilities Manager, (The Pavilion & Eden Lane). It was agreed that this vacancy needed to be filled, whilst appreciating the organisation review of the Town Council was currently on hold.

**RESOLVED the previous decision made relating to the advertising of this post and the job evaluation be carried out and the current Manager’s job description be reviewed to reflect both the Council’s current and future requirements. When this had been finalized and agreed by Members, the new post would be advertised externally.**

125. DEPUTY MAYOR – LETTER OF RESIGNATION

The Deputy Town Clerk reported receipt of a letter of resignation from Councillor Baty, Deputy Mayor who was resigning with immediate effect. The Mayor made a suitable response thanking Councillor Baty for her support in carrying out the duties of Deputy Mayor.

Members were asked to nominate a replacement Deputy Mayor.

**RESOLVED Councillor G Cowie be elected to the role of Deputy Mayor for the remainder of the civic year.**

125. LETTER OF RESIGNATION – COUNCILLOR M MILSOM, ACRE RIGG WARD

The Deputy Town Clerk reported receipt of a letter of resignation from Councillor M Milsom, Passfield Ward Councillor. Members were sorry to receive Councillor Margaret Milsom’s resignation and asked that a letter of thanks be sent to her from the Council.

**RESOLVED the resignation be accepted and Durham County Council be requested to deal with this vacancy.**

126. SUGGESTED REPLY – LEGAL ADVICE

Members were circulated with a suggested reply to correspondence received and considered at the Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, Minute Number 74 refers.

**RESOLVED approval be given for the letter as drafted to be sent.**

127. DECISION NOTICE – DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL MONITORING OFFICER

Members were circulated with a copy of a decision notice in relation to complaint MO103 advising that no action should be taken on the allegation made.

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