

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 19TH JANUARY 2015

PRESENT:- COUN D MILSOM (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- K Liddell, M A Cartwright, J I Measor, S Simpson, C Baty & V Watson

Messrs:- L Cook, C Watkins, R Kyle, C J Metcalfe, W M Jeffrey, J Alvey, G Cowie, D Sillito, S Miles & 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. There were no members of the public present.

151. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been submitted from Councillor L Wood, C Robbins and R Kyle, (ill).

RECOMMENDED the Council approve the reasons submitted for absence received on the grounds given above, and their apologies for absence be recorded.

152. POLICE – UPDATE

(a) Parking Charge Notice

Members considered the e mail received from a local resident about parking issues in the Town Centre at Christmas. The resident had been reassured that the continued use and future prosperity of the Town Centre was a priority for the Town Council and that the Town Council would continue to lobby the Town Centre owners to make changes to their charges and parking rules being applied to shoppers.

It was felt that clear notices should be displayed for shoppers and if parking restrictions were to be applied they should be the same across all of the car parks in the Centre.

RESOLVED the Town Council make representations to the Local MP to seek his support in changing the way private car parks were operating resulting in shoppers being deterred from using this shopping centre.

(b) Weekend Enforcement –Lowhills Road

It was reported that weekend enforcement had been arranged.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted.

(c) Limited waiting time outside the Church

Members were advised of the contents of the reply received from the Parking and Transport Infrastructure Team Leader following contact made regarding the lay by adjacent to St Cuthberts Church. It was suggested an alternative restriction could be considered such as limited waiting bays, although this would not stop the general public from using them and also questioned how such a restriction could be managed. It was generally agreed there was no best solution to this issue.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted.

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Jepson to the meeting. An update on activity in the town from the date of the last meeting to date was given for Members and the Chairman allowed for questions to the Officer. Details were given on the diversionary scheme for those caught shop lifting in the town centre. A Local Member asked if it would be possible to have the list of incidents prior to the meeting. It was reported that usually this was given if the Officer could not

attend in person and the statistics were collated that day so that they were as up to date as possible. They could perhaps be circulated after the meeting, this would be looked into.

Reference was made to reports on social media sites on dog kidnapping and there was discussion on how reassurance might be given by the Police to residents. Other issues including off road motorbikes, gas meter scams, cars being off loaded on Passfield Way, quad bikes and the danger to other motorists of drivers in drivers in cars doing do nuts and spins.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted and the Officer be thanked for her attendance.

153. THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 15TH DECEMBER 2014 & SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE 6TH JANUARY & 13TH JANUARY 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

154. THE REPORT OF THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE OF THE 15TH DECEMBER 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

155. THE REPORT OF THE HEALTH & SAFETY JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE 21ST NOVEMBER 2014 & 15TH DECEMBER 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

It was suggested that poop scoop/dog bags should be given out free of charge in an attempt to combat problems with dog owners not cleaning up after their dogs.

RESOLVED consideration be given to dog bags being provided free of charge to residents.

156. THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 5TH JANUARY 2015 a copy of which had

been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 101 – Payments to ARCO

It was reported that it would not be possible to make the payments by installments.

RESOLVED this payment be made and it be noted the support was from September 2014 through to September 2015.

157. THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE 5TH JANUARY 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

158. THE MINUTES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 5TH JANUARY 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved, subject to a further Minute Number 52 being added to the minutes as follows:-

Minute Number 52 – Letter received from Councillor M J Thompson

At the meeting Councillor Jeffrey read out the contents of a letter he had been asked to advise the Council of.

RESOLVED the letter be delivered to the office, its contents remain strictly private & confidential, and be received only.

Matters Arising

(i) Minute Number 45- A Local Living Wage for Durham County Council

RESOLVED this be considered further at the budget meeting.

(ii) Minute Number 46 - Mental Well Being/Ill Health Guidance

RESOLVED the comment form the Town Clerk's Union be noted and passed to Durham County Council who had supported the Town Council with the drafting of this policy and Members be advised accordingly. The policy not be adopted until these issues were resolved.

159. THE REPORT OF THE CLERK'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE 12TH JANUARY 2015 & SPECIAL MEETING OF THE 19TH JANUARY 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

160. THE MINUTES OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF THE 12TH JANUARY 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Eden Lane Football Ground

Members asked that it be recorded that they were keen to see Peterlee Teams playing at the Town Council sites.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted.

161. THE MINUTES OF THE PAVILION MANAGEMENT BOARD OF THE 13TH JANUARY 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

162. SPOKESPERSON OF THE MAJORITY POLITICAL PARTY'S REPORT

Councillor Jeffrey felt it was a more practical approach to give Durham County Council the opportunity to work with Tesco to reach a successful conclusion rather than pressing for a costly Compulsory Purchase Order.

County Councillors Measor and Alvey advised that they had a meeting with representatives of Tesco and Officers of Durham County Council on 28th January 2015 and they hoped they would be able to give an update to the Town Council after this date.

Councillor Jeffrey asked that resident's thanks and appreciation be passed onto the workforce for making sure the grit bins were full and ready for use during the recent bad weather.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted and thanks be passed on as requested.

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

Councillor A Watson had asked that this item be placed on the Council agenda for discussion:-

“Ask Durham County Council if they can begin the procedure to obtain a compulsory purchase order against Tesco so as to demolish and landscape the old college”

Councillor A Watson felt that Durham County Council should work with residents of Peterlee with this site, it was an eye sore and had stood with little done to it for some time and he felt the best way to get action would be to obtain a CPO, demolish and landscape the site. He referred to the next phase of the development at Dalton Park and was concerned that this town would end up with nothing in terms of town centre and retail development.

There was further discussion on how to move this development forward to the benefit of residents and it was **RESOLVED the outcome from the meeting to be held on 28th January 2015, be awaited. The following Members asked that they be recorded as voting against this resolution:- Councillors S Miles, D Sillito, K Liddell, S Simpson, V Watson, A Watson and M A Cartwright.**

164. 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.

165. TOWN CLERK'S GRIEVANCE – PROGRESS

- (i) To seek endorsement of engagement of specialist legal advice
- (ii) Talks with ACAS & Deadline given by the Town Clerk's Union

RESOLVED the engagement of specialist legal advice, at the costs as given at the meeting, be endorsed.

FURTHER RESOLVED Smith & Graham be asked to draft a suitable reply to the Town Clerk's Union regarding timescales etc.