

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 20TH JULY 2015

PRESENT:- COUN M A CARTWRIGHT (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- K Liddell, S Simpson, L M Wood & K Hawley

Messrs:- SMiles, D Sillito, W M Jeffrey, C Watkins, L Cook, R J Curtis, 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. There were no members of the public present.

28. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been submitted from Councillor Miss V Watson, (on holiday).

RECOMMENDED the Council approve the reason submitted for absence received on the grounds given above, and Councillor Miss Watson’s apologies for absence be recorded.

29. POLICE – UPDATE

The Chairman gave the Officer’s apologies, they were unable to attend the meeting however had supplied the statistics prior to the meeting and had asked for any issues from the meeting to be

forwarded to them to follow up.

Items raised at the meeting were as follows:-

Dangerous cycling by an organized group of cyclist, cutting across the front of vehicles etc;

Rumour that the Peterlee Station is going to be closed;

Lead thefts reported and discussed at a local resident's meeting;

A yellow quad driving at speeds of up to 60mph on the grass land next to the MUGA at Helford Road; another quad bike had been reported to the Police, causing a nuisance on a Saturday and Sunday evening, (although it was a road legal vehicle).

RESOLVED these matters be passed onto the Police for their attention.

30. THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 15TH JUNE 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

- (i) Minute Number 39

It was noted by Councillor Jeffrey that in relation to item 39 this matter had already appeared in the press so was already public knowledge.

- (ii) Minute Number 44 – Tesco Site - Progress

Members were circulated with an update received from Durham County Council, a copy of which had just recently been issued to County Councillors.

RESOLVED progress be awaited and regular updates be requested.

31. THE MINUTES OF THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE OF THE 15TH JUNE 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved. It was noted that the attendance by outside representatives had not been listed and it was asked if this could be included in future reports.

RESOLVED the report be accepted and all attendees be recorded in the minutes.

32. THE MINUTES OF THE JOINT HEALTH & SAFETY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE 18TH JUNE 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved. There were several queries from Members not present at the meeting, all of which were fully addressed to their satisfaction.

RESOLVED the report be accepted.

33. THE MINUTES OF THE EDEN LANE COMMUNITY BUILDING STEERING GROUP OF THE 19TH JUNE 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved. An update was requested on Global Sport and it was reported that they had now vacated the building. Councillor Watkins expressed his desire to attend the meetings as one of the Local Ward Members, however as they were held during the day, it was difficult as he had work commitments.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted.

34. THE MINUTES OF THE SHOTTON HALL COMMITTEE OF THE 22ND JUNE 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

35. THE MINUTES OF THE SHOW COMMITTEE OF THE 25TH JUNE 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved, subject to minor the alterations given at the meeting.

36. THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 6TH JULY 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved, subject to Councillor W M Jeffrey not being recorded as in attendance.

Matters Arising

- (i) Minute Number 16 – Finance Sub Committee – Payment of Accounts

There were several queries raised in relation to the accounts regarding charges for waiting time; invoices being submitted that were several months old and finally a payment for a civic function.

It was also asked why the vandalism to the public toilets at Eden Lane had not been reported to Council for their attention.

RESOLVED the details of the civic car contract be checked in terms of waiting time charges. **FURTHER RESOLVED** suppliers be reminded to submit their invoices in a more timely manner.

37. THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE 6TH JULY 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved, subject to Councillor W M Jeffrey not being recorded as in attendance.

38. THE MINUTES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 6TH JULY 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved subject to Councillor W M Jeffrey not being recorded as in attendance.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 13 – Learning & Development, Briefing Session held on 16th June 2015

RESOLVED all Members be issued with a copy of the slides from the session.

40. THE REPORT OF THE CLERK'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE 13TH JULY 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved, subject to it being recorded that both Councillor Cartwright and Miles had declared an interest in the item relating to the Town Twinning visit.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 25 – Conference rota

Councillor Watkins asked that his name be removed from the Conference list as he had work commitments which meant it would be difficult for him to attend. There was discussion about the draw of names for the rota being made at the Clerk's Advisory Meeting rather than at the Council Meeting; in the past this had been carried out at the AGM. There was a vote on this being re drawn; this was defeated and it was agreed the list remain as given.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted.

41. THE MINUTES OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE

OF THE 13TH JULY 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 16 – Staffing, The Pavilion – Progress

Councillor Jeffrey felt this minute should have reflected reference to Standing Orders and the timing of the close of the meeting.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted.

42. SPOKESPERSON OF THE MAJORITY POLITICAL PARTY’S REPORT

Councillor Jeffrey stressed the need for action at the former college/Tesco site.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted.

43. SPOKESPERSON OF THE NEP MEMBER’S REPORT

Councillor A Watson agreed with Councillor Jeffrey and suggested the Town Council continue to seek progress with development of the former college site, as well as the County Council applying whatever pressure it could for the development of the site. Councillor Watson also referred to the election to be held for the vacancy in the Passfield Ward.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted.

44. 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.

45. STAFFING – SHOTTON HALL & THE PAVILION

It was felt that job evaluations were needed for the organization along with the re structuring of the Council. The Deputy Town Clerk stressed that she was merely acting as an “interim” and that she felt this project should not be taken forward without the direction of the Town Clerk. Members felt however there was an urgent need to tackle outstanding issues and for this to be taken forward and asked if Durham County Council could be approached to support and perhaps elect a Project Manager to manage this piece of work for the Town Council.

RESOLVED Durham County Council be approached on this matter.

46. CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS REF MO120 & MO121

Members were circulated with a copy of the decision notices in relation to these complaints and it was noted the Investigating Officer would be making contact in due course.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted and progress be awaited.

47. LAND NORTH OF LOWHILLS ROAD & WEST OF THORPE ROAD (A1086) PETERLEE

Members were advised that planning details relating to Phase 1 of Residential Development – 360 dwellings (reserved matters) had been received. Members were under the impression that there was to be no affordable housing in the first phase of the development and they also asked for details on the stream/beck that ran alongside the site and also comment there had been no consultation with the Town Council on the cycle/footpath on Town Council land.

RESOLVED further details be obtained from the Planning Officers.