

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 18TH JULY 2016

PRESENT:- COUN M A CARTWRIGHT (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- K Liddell, S Simpson, L M Wood, V Watson, M J Thompson & K Hawley

Messrs:- S Miles, D Sillito, H Bennett MBE, W M Jeffrey, C Watkins, L Cook, R Kyle, J Alvey, C J Metcalfe & A Watson

Prior to the start of the meeting the Mayor welcomed Mr Ian Morris to the Council as the newly appointed Town Clerk.

Mr T Duffy had come along to the meeting to make use of the open public session to express concerns about the running of the Peterlee Leisure Gardens Association (PLGA).

COUNCILLORS W M JEFFREY AND J ALVEY AND THEN C J METCALFE DECLARED AN INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM AND TOOK NO PART IN THE DISCUSSION WHICH ENSUED.

Mr Duffy felt that Rule 9 of the Constitution of the PLGA should be invoked against certain individuals and he spoke on the various issues that were of concern to him, all of which had been raised previously with the Council.

The Mayor thanked Mr Duffy for his attendance at the meeting and confirmed that the Council's Officers were progressing with various issues relating to the PLGA and Leisure Garden sites.

29. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been submitted from Councillor J I Measor (ill), G Cowie (ill), S McDonnell, (work commitments) and C Robbins, (hospital appointments).

RESOLVED the Council approve the reasons submitted for the absences received on the grounds given above, and the Councillors' apologies for absence be recorded.

30. POLICE UPDATE

The Mayor welcomed the PCSO David Edson to the meeting and he gave the report update to Council on incidents since the last meeting.

The Mayor then opened the meeting for a question and answer session which covered issues including a report of a near miss with a quad bike coming out of Dene Parks, next to Beck Place, where the Police had received a report. The Police advised that this was a difficult situation with a no chase policy and a limited resource with of off-road bikes. PCSO Edson confirmed that the off-road Police bikes were deployed based on intelligence and reports and as such they relied on evidence from the community. It was suggested that perhaps some type of restrictor or barrier could be put in place to prohibit access. It was reported this had been looked into previously but had not been progressed for a variety of reasons. A Member raised the issue of an abandoned car on the corner of Chapel Hill which had been there over three months.

In closing, the Mayor thanked the Officer for coming along to the meeting.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted.

31. THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 20TH JUNE 2016 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

- (a) Minute Number 32 – Report of the Peterlee Parish Meeting of

the 30th March 2016

A Local Member expressed her concern there were no minutes compiled by the Council for this meeting and in her opinion the record of the meeting taken was an accurate summary of the proceedings. The Mayor and several other Members disagreed with her on the content of the minutes.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

(b)Overnight Road Closure, Burnhope Way

Members advised this road had been closed earlier than expected and it was asked this be drawn to the attention of the County Council.

RESOLVED Durham County Council be advised this road was closed by contractors earlier than notified and anticipated.

COUNCILLOR W M JEFFREY DECLARED AN INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM AND TOOK NO PART IN THE DISCUSSION WHICH ENSUED.

32. THE MINUTES OF THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE OF THE 20TH JUNE 2016 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 2 – Appointment of a Chairman for the ensuing year
There was considerable discussion on this issue and following a vote it was **RESOLVED Mrs Long be thanked for offering to Chair this meeting, however it be noted Council wished to follow advice given and a Councillor be elected to the role of Chair and this be Councillor S Miles.**

33. THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 4TH JULY 2016 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 24(c) Member's Allowances – Advice

A Local Member felt stopping a Member's allowance as a blanket policy was, in her opinion, against case law and was wide open to challenge.

RESOLVED the information given be noted and the recommendation stand.

34. THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE 4TH JULY 2016 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

35. THE MINUTES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 4TH JULY 2016 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

A Local Member referred to items included in the Minutes of the meeting of 6th June 2016, which had already been approved.

RESOLVED the recommendation made previously in relation to these items, stand.

36. THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PAVILION MANAGEMENT BOARD OF THE 5TH JULY 2016 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

37. THE MINUTES OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF THE 11TH JULY 2016 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

Helford Road – Consultation

There was further consideration of the fencing to the cricket pitch and there were discussions on the various pros and cons of fencing the area and there was a lack of agreement on consultation. There was also reference to the previous grant awards and what was included in the application(s).

RESOLVED a briefing note be prepared for the next meeting for Member's consideration.

38. REPORTS OF THE SELECTION & APPOINTMENT PANELS

Members were circulated with copies of the minutes of the meetings relating to the Appointment of the Town Clerk held on 26 May (receipt and opening of the application forms), 31 May (shortlisting), 14 & 15 June, (on site tests Assessment Centre), 24 & 27 June interviews.

RESOLVED the reports be approved, subject to the attendance list being corrected.

39. USE OF A MEETING ROOM FOR POLITICAL GROUP MEETINGS

It was reported this request had been received from Councillor A Watson. It was considered there was implied consent given for legitimate parties to use rooms that were available. If there was any body which applied to use rooms where it was felt it may be inappropriate then that would need to be considered by Council.

RESOLVED a room at either Shotton Hall or The Pavilion be made available on request, subject to availability.

40. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Members were circulated with an FOI request asking how much funding the Council was planning to make or would be making available for the Queen's birthday celebrations. To date only a "Clean for the Queen" litter pick had been carried out. It was reported a reply would be made within the required deadline.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

41. PLANET CIRCUS – REQUEST TO USE LAND AT HELFORD ROAD

Members were circulated with a request to hold a circus at Helford Road. Whilst members supported the idea of a circus coming to Town

they felt that residents of Helford Road already had the two day Show followed by the Fireworks on their doorstep and that perhaps an alternative site should be considered ie Eden Lane. In considering what level of fee to be requested it was asked that a non refundable deposit be charged to make sure the area was properly cleaned and left in good condition.

RESOLVED permission be given to Planet Circus to hold their event at Eden Lane, on terms to be negotiated by the Town Council.

42. VARIATION APPLICATION – B&M STORES

Members were advised of the following application received by Durham County Council for B & M Stores to extend the sale of alcohol and opening hours to 8.00 – 22.00 Monday to Sunday, (currently opening hours and sale of alcohol is 08.00 – 20.00).

RESOLVED no comments be offered on the application.

43. YORK ROAD POST OFFICE – CHANGES

Members were circulated with changes to the York Road Post Office where feedback was requested prior to the Post Office finalizing their plans.

RESOLVED the information given be noted and no comments be offered.

44. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Details of planning applications lodged with Durham County Council were given to Members as below:-

(a) 15 Lancaster Hill, pitched roof

(b) 1 – 3 Upper Chare, prior notification of change of use from office to ice cream parlour

RESOLVED no comments be offered on the details submitted.

45. 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.

46. COMPLAINT – ALLEGED BREACH OF MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT (REF COM046-46A, B)

Members were circulated with decision notices received from Durham County Council following the above complaints being made recommending no further action.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

47. WOODHOUSE PARK – ICE CREAM VAN

Members were circulated with an expression of interest received from a local operator to bring his ice cream van into Woodhouse Park. Members felt this type of facility would add to Woodhouse Park and suggested if this could perhaps be offered on a trial period and as soon as possible, as long as the correct procurement procedures were applied.

RESOLVED approval be given in principle for an ice cream van to operate from Woodhouse Park, subject to procurement processes.

48. HORDEN & PETERLEE RFC

(i) Progress Report

An update from Horden & Peterlee Rugby Football Club on progress with the refurbishment of the Eden Lane Community Building was circulated to each Member. The Club thanked the Town Council and

its Officers for working in partnership with them to make this project a success. Details of the works carried out to the building and the level of investment in it by the Club were included. The Club asked the Council if they would consider funding the cost of external shuttering for the building and fencing to the rear pitch at Eden Lane.

RESOLVED the request to fund external shuttering be refused, however, agreement be given to improving fencing to the rear pitch and prices be obtained for this work.

(ii) Repair to the Roof – Tenders received

Tenders had been received and opened by two Members prior to the start of the Parks & Cemetery Meeting on 11th July 2016. A report of the tenders received had been circulated to each Member. Members made reference to the disparity in prices received for the works to the roof however were agreeable to award the work to the firm that had submitted the cheapest tender, on the proviso that the specification had been fully checked and challenged.

RESOLVED approval be given to the roofing works being carried out, at the lowest price obtained.

49. A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE had been held on 7 July 2016.

At the meeting there was only one Member in attendance, Councillor M A Cartwright. A presentation was made by Mr David Banks, Northern Region Representative, The National Allotment Society and it was suggested that progress could be made with this matter by:-

- A one year lease being issued to both sites;
- An independent overseeing committee be established to work with each site in this 12 month period to put everything in place that was required;
- A small donation to the NRA for their professional support.

Following the meeting the shop at Lowhills Road was closed and subsequently opened two days later.

There was considerable discussion on this matter.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted.

50. SPOKESPERSON OF THE MAJORITY POLITICAL PARTY'S REPORT

A report was not given.

51. SPOKESPERSON OF THE NEP MEMBER'S REPORT

A report was not given.