

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 15TH AUGUST 2016

PRESENT:- COUN M A CARTWRIGHT (CHAIR)

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

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

Mr John Scott, a local resident, had asked to come along the 15minute public open session held prior to the Council Meeting. He was asked if he wished to address the Council on an issue. He declined explaining he was merely taking an interest in Council business. Mr & Mrs Duffy were also in attendance at the meeting and did not speak.

52. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been submitted from Councillor G Cowie (ill).

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

53. POLICE UPDATE

The Chair welcomed Inspector Stephen Thubron, Peterlee NPT, Durham Constabulary, to the meeting. Inspector Thubron advised he hoped to get to the monthly Council Meetings and he also intended to change the way the current PACT meetings ran. Following discussions with the Town Clerk it had been agreed the PACT Meetings could be held prior to the monthly Council Meeting to enable Councillors or members of the public to raise local police related issues before the main Council Meeting began.

The Chair then opened the meeting for Members to raise issues of concern to them. Members raised issues including ways to tackle speeding other than Speedwatch; school gate parking issues; off road motor bikes and quads; the Police attending residents' meetings; graffiti and a recent fire in the North Dene.

Inspector Thubron made reference to the new web site "Keep in the Know", (www.keepintheknow.co.uk), which he urged local Members to view and register for and advised he would forward a list of e mail addresses and badge numbers for all PCSO's operating in the Town so that reports could be made more easily as follows:-

Stephen Thubron Radio number 1281

Sgt Mark Wearmouth Radio number 1168

Sgt James Peel Radio number 1491

PCSOs

Amanda Jepson (Penine/Grampian/Helford) Radio 2272

Natalie Holmes (Edenhill/Manor Way) Radio 1504

Michelle Burr (Town Centre) Radio 0340

Sarah Kinghorn (Acre Rigg/Basingstoke) Radio 2260

Jonathan Roberts (Edenhill/Manor Way) Radio 2396

If Members ring 101 and the PCSO is on duty then they could be transferred straight to that officer's radio. The e-mail addresses were firstname.lastname@durham.pnn.police.uk and were spelt as above. It was stressed that if an incident required attention then just to continue to report as normal rather than through e-mail in case the officer was absent due to leave / courses etc.

The Mayor/Chair thanked Inspector Thubron for his attendance at the meeting, giving a lively and informative presentation.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted.

54. NOTICES OF MOTION RECEIVED

(i) A Statement from the Mayor re Garden Shop, Lowhills Road

The Mayor gave a verbal statement to the meeting following recent actions taken at Lowhills Road Leisure Garden site. In closing she assured she now had a clear understanding of the roles and duties of both officers and Members to allow the effective operation of the Town Council.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted.

(ii) “Call for Resignation of Mayor”

Prior to the item being considered the Town Clerk apologized for two further items not being included on agenda papers due to an administrative error. He assured the two items in question would be submitted to the appropriate Committee for future consideration.

Councillor M J Thompson had submitted a written request for this item to be included on the agenda and she spoke at length on the matter and the actions she expected the Mayor to take.

In response the Mayor repeated that she felt she had acted in the best interests of the Town Council and for the good of the Town. In closing she assured Members that she supports the gardeners at Lowhills Road Leisure Garden site.

A number of Members then spoke in favour of the Mayor.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted.

55. THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 18TH JULY 2016 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

(a) Minute Number 30 - Police Update

A Local Member asked the minutes reflect he had raised concerns about Dene Parks. It was also noted that at the meeting the PCSO reported that as far as he was aware the Police were committed to Policing the area.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted.

(b) Minute Number 31 – Minutes of the Council Meeting of the 20th June 2016

A Local Member raised a query on the progress made with items raised at the Parish Meeting called by electors. The Town Clerk assured a report would be submitted to a future meeting on these matters.

RESOLVED a report be awaited.

(c) Minutes Number 33 – Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Meeting of the 4th July 2016

A Local Member made reference to the item relating to Member's Allowances where she had expressed an opinion relating to the legality of the decision. The Town Clerk had sought legal clarification on the recommendation, however it was to stand.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted.

(d) Minute Number 41 - Planet Circus – Request to use Town Council owned land

It was reported that the land suggested at Eden Lane was acceptable to the circus. Members suggested details of alternative car parking be passed to the organiser(s).

RESOLVED the information given, be noted.

Councillor J Alvey left the meeting at 8.10pm and he asked for this to be recorded.

56. THE MINUTES OF THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE OF THE 18TH JULY 2016 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 10 – Appointment of Chair

To note the amendment made at the Council Meeting on 18th July 2016, where it was agreed Councillor Miles be appointed as Chair.

At the meeting held that evening the Mayor's Committee chose the Group, Betcha by Golly Wow as the entertainment for the Mayor's Ball and set the ticket price at £25.00 per ticket.

RESOLVED these decisions be endorsed and plenary powers be granted for them to be actioned immediately.

57. THE MINUTES OF THE SHOTTON HALL COMMITTEE OF THE 25TH JULY 2016 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 12 (i) Brewery Tenders

RESOLVED the sub group to consider the tenders also include Councillor Miles.

58. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PETERLEE SHOW SAFETY TEAM OF THE 27TH JULY 2016 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

59. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Members were provided with details of planning issues as given below:-

(i) Planning Hearing – Land North of Castle Eden Brewery, erection of new cremation facility to start on 15 September 2016 at Castle Eden Village Hall, Stockton Road, Castle Eden at 10.00am

A Local Member reported he intended to go along to this hearing as an interested resident. It was suggested Councillor Watson attend as the Chair of Planning Committee and this was agreed.

RESOLVED the Chair of Planning be given a mandate to represent the Town Council at the Hearing, as per the previous decision made that the Town Council and that the Council support the application as they felt it would provide a valuable and needed resource to residents of the Town who currently had to travel and deal with a lengthy wait for crematoria services.

(ii) Car park management system including parking meters and CCTV, Hospital O'Neill Drive – application approved

(iii) 27A The Chare, new shop front

(iii) 13 Westmorland Rise, boundary wall

(iv) 9 Eastfield, single storey rear extension

FURTHER RESOLVED the information given, be noted and no further comments be submitted.

60. PART TIME ADVISORY 20MPH SPEED LIMITS – PETERLEE –
ACRE RIGG AND DENEHOUSE SCHOOLS

Members were circulated with a copy of a proposal from Durham County Council to reduce the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph outside of schools during drop off and pick up times at 33 schools across the County which included Acre Rigg School and the two schools at Dene House and comments and views were invited. Several Members felt this proposal did not go far enough and that a 20mph speed limit in urban residential

areas should be both compulsory and permanent. Reference was made to the “20 is Plenty” Campaign.

RESOLVED the Town Council advise it was against this proposal as they felt it would confuse motorists, and instead they suggested the County Council should consider introducing a compulsory, permanent 20mph speed limit in all residential urban areas.

61. 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.

62. SAFETY OFFICER

Members considered the report of the Show Co Ordinator in this regard, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member.

RESOLVED the quote received from J T Event Services to provide safety support for the Fireworks and Show for the next three years, at the price as detailed in the report, be accepted.

63. PROCUREMENT OF SPECIALIST PROCUREMENT ADVICE & SUPPORT FROM DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

Members considered the report of the Town Clerk in this regard, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member.

RESOLVED that in accordance with section 11.1 ii (specialist services) of the Town Council’s Financial Regulations, the Council:
(i) appoint Durham County Council’s Corporate Procurement Team as Peterlee Town Council’s specialist advice and support providers for procurement issues until the end of March 2018;

(ii) Direct the Town Clerk to work with the DCC Procurement Team to review the Contract and Procurement elements of the

current Financial Regulations and bring a report to Council on any recommended amendments;

(iii) Direct the Town Clerk to work with the DCC Procurement Team to devise a training programme for Members and selected Officers to include procurement law, best practice and Peterlee Town Council Financial Regulations, to be presented to a future meeting of Council, (or other relevant committee), for approval.

64. SPOKESPERSON OF THE MAJORITY POLITICAL PARTY'S (NEP) REPORT

Council Watson reported on the recent vandalism experienced at the Hampshire Place Play Area and he felt there was a need to consider re location of the Play Area at Helford Road.

RESOLVED play areas be considered as an item at the next Parks & Cemetery Meeting.

65. SPOKESPERSON OF THE LABOUR PARTY MEMBER'S REPORT

Councillor Jeffrey also commented on the vandalism of the Town Councils play areas.

66. WAVENEY ROAD, TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

Members were circulated with details of this road closure which was to run from 7.00am until 7.00pm on Friday 19th August 2016 for an expected period of two days on a 65m length of Waveney Road.

In considering this item Members referred to road signs appearing to have been used, then discarded by the road side, then not re used or collected.

RESOLVED the issue of road traffic works signage be taken up with Durham County Council.