

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018 at 6.30PM

PRESENT:- COUN S MEIKLE (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- A C Long, K Hawley, K Liddell, K Duffy, L Fenwick, & S Simpson

Messrs:- T Duffy, G Carne, S Miles, R Moore, S McGlen & A Watson

105. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were offered and accepted from Councillors S McDonnell, M A Cartwright, C Watkins, R Kyle & A Wilkinson.

106. Public Participation Session

A public participation 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 at the meeting.

107. To receive declarations of interest

Members were reminded of the need to disclose any interests in items on this agenda, whether pecuniary or otherwise, none were received.

108. The Minutes of the Council Meeting of the 26<sup>TH</sup> November 2018 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved, subject to S McGlen being shown as in attendance at the meeting.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 100 – Acoustic Panels

Progress with this installation was requested. Councillor McGlen offered to carry out some tests with a reverberation time meter and this was accepted. **RESOLVED progress be awaited.**

109. The Minutes of the Resources Committee of the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were noted. Councillor K Liddell had been in attendance at the meeting.

110. The Minutes of the Community & Environment Committee of the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were noted. Councillors K & T Duffy had declared an interest on the item relating to the allotment site at Thorntree Gill.

Matters Arising

(i) Minute Number 66 – engaging with residents in Edenhill regarding the cemetery at Eden Lane

Progress was requested and it was confirmed that the support of the Groundwork Project Officer in Edenhill was to be sought to best engage with residents.

(ii) Minute Number 68 – Thorntree Gill Allotment site – amenity room and storage area

Progress was requested with this new build, and the Town Clerk advised he hoped to have this project committed by the close of this financial year.

**RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

111. 2019/20 Budget Headlines

The Town Clerk gave a presentation on headline issues for the 2019/20 budget year. He recapped on the pressures and opportunities the Town Council faced in setting the 2018/19 budget and then went on to outline the opportunities assuming a 0% increase in the 2019/20 precept which were the net effect of the increase in the council tax base and decrease in the LCTSS of only £29.00. There was also the potential to cut the discretionary spending budget and income increase. The pressures were capital investment, staffing costs, (the pay award and increments) and external pressures such as inflation costs.

Councillor T Duffy came into the meeting at 8.00pm.

**It was suggested the use of mobiles be a future item for the Scrutiny agenda.**

The Town Clerk then offered for Members various scenarios and their cost/effect including reducing the precept by 2%; providing a youth club in the Town with Town Council employed youth workers etc. The Clerk asked Members for any ideas on revenue expenditure to be passed on to him by early January 2019 at the latest to enable them to be properly considered. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

112. Disciplinary Policy

Members were asked to approve some amendments to the Town Council's staff disciplinary policy, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member. Members gave some feedback and asked if it could be concluded that a person could bring along a friend or relative to a hearing in a support capacity only. The Town Clerk advised he would seek advice on this matter and report back to Council.

**RESOLVED the amendments as given to the disciplinary policy, be approved and the other item be clarified at the next meeting.**

113. Spokesperson of the North East Party's Report

Councillor A Watson gave an update on the Santa's Wish project saying how well it was going. He reported there were still issues in Peterlee and he asked if the Police be invited to a future meeting. He sent his best to Councillor Cartwright. In closing he wished everyone a Happy Christmas and Happy New Year. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

114. Spokesperson of the Labour Political Party's Report

Councillor Fenwick sent her get well wishes to Councillor Cartwright. She reported the new Aldi store opening in Peterlee with lots of shoppers using it and being excited by the new store, she felt we should fight for investment and it would be exciting to see what we could attract next. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

The Mayor closed the meeting and wished everyone a Happy Christmas and 2019.