

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2019 at 6.30PM

PRESENT:- COUN T DUFFY (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- K Hawley, K Liddell, K Duffy, L Fenwick, M A Cartwright & S Simpson

Messrs:- S Miles, R Moore, G Carne, A Wilkinson, A Watson & C Watkins

126. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were offered and accepted from Councillors AC Long, S McDonnell, R Kyle and S McGlen.

127. Public Participation Session

A public participation session was held to allow members of the public an opportunity to put questions to the Council. Representatives of Lowhills Road Leisure Gardens had come along to the meeting to address the Council on a number of issues outstanding issues at the site. It was agreed that a meeting between the representatives and Council Officers be arranged as soon as possible.

128. 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. Councillor S Meikle declared an interest in the item relating to the County Durham Community Foundation.

129. The Peterlee Fund

The Chair welcomed Michelle Cook from the County Durham Community Foundation who spoke about the work of the Foundation and proposals for a Peterlee Fund and gave a presentation to Members on the potential to bring funding into Peterlee. There was a question and answer session and at the close the Chair thanked Ms Cook for attendance at the meeting. **RESOLVED the Town Clerk look into this proposal further to see if a future model could work in Peterlee and to what financial benefit.**

The Chair then introduced Sgt Dave Watson to the meeting. Sgt Watson explained he was now the dedicated Sergeant for Peterlee. Members asked about the allocation of additional resource that had been offered by Ron Hogg when he attended a public

meeting last year. It was asked that the Town Clerk chase this up and an invite be extended for Mr Hogg to attend a future meeting.

**Councillor S Meikle left the meeting at 7.40.**

130. The Minutes of the Council Meeting of the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved, subject to Councillor Cartwright's apologies being included along with the deletion of "animals and wildlife" in Minute Number 124.

Progress with prices on acoustic panels for the Pavilion was requested and given, with a further report to be made as soon as prices had been compared.

131. The Minutes of the Resources Committee of the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were noted.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 68 – Lighting

It was noted that this meets matter related to potential future floodlighting and it was asked if this could be chased up with the electrician.

It was noted that Councillor Cartwright had taken ill and that was why she had left the meeting.

132. The Minutes of the Community & Environment Committee of the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were noted.

133. Durham's Year of Culture

The report of the Corporate Services Manager updating Members on this initiative and making suggestions as to how the Town Council may contribute was circulated for the information of Members. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

134. Planning

(i) Gas fueled capacity mechanism embedded generation plant to support the National Grid, Land to the North of Hackworth Road NW Industrial Estate

It was reported an appeal had been lodged, for information (App ref DM/18/00225/FPA).

(ii) Construction and operation of gas powered generators for the provision of flexible energy generation, Land at Mill Hill, NW Ind Estate

It was reported details of this application had been received, and feedback was requested, (App Ref DM/19/00171/FPA). **RESOLVED this be considered further at the Resources Committee.**

(iii) Redevelopment of the former college site etc (App Ref DM/18/03002/FPA) It was reported there had been amendments made to this application.

135. Brass on the Bus Event – 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Members received a verbal report from the Town Clerk on a proposal to host a 'Brass on the Bus' event a Peterlee Pavilion on 16<sup>th</sup> July as part of the Passmore Pavilion 50<sup>th</sup>

anniversary celebrations. **RESOLVED that whilst Member supported this proposal, they asked if DCC would seek alternative funding for it.**

136. Lowhills Road Changing Rooms and Former Bowling Facility

The Town Clerk outlined the current use and facilities provided on the Lowhills Road site which included the Scout Hut, a play area, Hill Rigg House, DCC former Sure Start building, the former bowls pavilion and the former tennis courts. There were many issues to consider at the site and it was felt there were potential funding opportunities available. It was suggested a working party be established, initially with the local ward Members and Council Officers, to discuss what was wanted and needed for the area and this group report back to the Community and Environment Committee. **RESOLVED a series of meetings with Local Ward Members be arranged to take place as soon as possible and this group prepare an options report to the Community & Environment Committee.**

137. Review of Members' Allowances

Members were circulated with a report of the Town Clerk reviewing the current levels of Members allowances and recommending a 0% increase in the allowance for 2019/20 at £1,206.84.

**RESOLVED the contents of the report be noted and**

- (i) **set the level of Members allowance for 2019/20 at £1,206.84, representing a 0% increase from 2018/19; and**
- (ii) **accept the Remuneration Panel's recommendation to adopt Durham County Council's allowances scheme for other allowable expenses, in line with the 2003 regulations.**

138. Final Budget 2019/2020

Members considered and agreed the final budget for the forthcoming financial year, a copy of which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

**RESOLVED the contents of the report be noted and:-**

- (i) **the extension of the Citizen Advice case worker project from 2 days to 3 days a week for the 2019/20 budget year at a cost of £20,000, be approved;**
- (ii) **the renewal of NALC and CDALC membership for the 2019/20 financial year at an estimated cost of £2,606.61 be approved;**
- (iii) **the budget for 2019/20 as detailed in this report, be approved.**

139. Exclusion of the Press & Public

**RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the items to be discussed, the committee pass the formal resolution to exclude the press and public from the meeting, pursuant to schedule 12A s.5 of the Local Government Act 1972.**

140. Horden Cemetery Contribution

Members were asked to consider the matter of past donations to Horden Parish Council relating to a contribution to the costs of Horden Cemetery. The Town Clerk made Members aware of the potential risk to the Town Council both financial and reputational, that was involved in reinforcing the Council's original decision.

**RESOLVED**

**(i) the previous decision of October 2017 stood, that the Town Council would not be making a contribution to Horden Parish Council's cemetery service for 2017/18 or any future financial years;**

**(ii) it was also noted that in February 2018 the Town Council offered to meet with representatives from Horden Parish Council to discuss possible arrangements to mitigate the budgetary impact of this decision on Horden Parish Council and that the offer was declined by Horden Parish Council.**

141. Spokesperson of the North East Party's Report

Councillor A Watson congratulated one of his colleagues who had recently qualified as a Justice of the Peace.

142. Spokesperson of the Labour Political Party's Report

Councillor L Fenwick commented on the good news that the Town Centre Management were to offer free parking for users of the Centre.