

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 22ND JULY 2019 at 6.30PM

PRESENT:- COUN T DUFFY (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- K Hawley, K Liddell, K Duffy, L Fenwick, A C Long, S McDonnell, V Watson, M A Cartwright, D Howarth & S Simpson

Messrs:- S Miles, R Moore, G Carne, A Watson, S McGlen, S F Franklin & R Kyle

35. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were offered and accepted from Councillors S Meikle & S Kirkup.

36. Public Participation Session

A public participation session was held to allow members of the public an opportunity to put questions to the Council. No questions were received.

37. Election of a new Councillor for the Edenhill Ward

The Chair welcomed and introduced Mrs Diane Howarth the successful candidate for the Eden Hill Ward elected on 18th July 2019 and she signed her declaration of acceptance of office.

38. To receive declarations of interest

Members were reminded of the need to disclose any interests in items on this agenda, whether pecuniary or otherwise. Councillors Carne and Miles declared an interest in the item relating to parking on the playing fields at Lowhills Road.

39. Community Lead Housing in Peterlee

The Chair welcomed Lauren Broderick, (Community Housing Officer) to the meeting. Ms Broderick delivered a presentation to the Council, explaining the concept and examples of different types of and delivery methods for Community Led Housing (CLH). CLH typically involves local people joining together with house builders to address housing issues in their local area. Examples provided included situations

where a local community identified a local housing issue such as insufficient starter homes for people to buy or rent, or too many empty properties, and then played a leading role in solving these housing problems by exploring the needs of their community and helping to provide new homes in the area working with Registered Providers or the private sector.

Further information regarding Community Led Housing could be found at:

<https://www.communityledhomes.org.uk/what-community-led-housing>

Ms Broderick informed Members that there are various funding pots for CLH schemes, but that there is no certainty that these will be available after March 2020. She encouraged any local community groups who might be interested in a CLH scheme to start the process of bidding to Government asap. She also confirmed that there were a number of bids active in other areas of County Durham at the moment.

Members discussed an interest in being involved in or even leading a CLH housing scheme in Peterlee, and identified a shortage in decent affordable housing in the town, particularly modern social rent/LCHO bungalows. It was suggested that Members should discuss this further and identify potential areas of land in Peterlee that could be suitable for a CLH scheme.

The Chair thanked Ms Broderick for her attendance.

40. Police Report

The Police were not in attendance at the meeting.

41. Additional Policing Resource for Peterlee

Mr Ron Hogg, Police, Crime & Victim's Commissioner offered his apologies to the meeting. The invitation had been extended for the August 2019 meeting.

42. To Approve the Minutes of the last meeting of the 24th June 2019 copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed as a true and correct record subject to Councillor Watkin's apologies being recorded.

43. The Minutes of the Resources Committee of the 1st July 2019 copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were noted.

44. The Minutes of the Community & Environment Committee of the 8th July 2019 copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were noted with the following amendment being agreed it being noted that Councillor Watkins had left the meeting at 9.00pm.

45. Grant funding request – CALM in East Durham CIC

Members considered the report of the Town Clerk giving details of the request for grant funding from a local Community Interest Company (CIC) 'CALM in East Durham'

to support their delivery of community-based holistic educational programmes, creative art classes and projects in Peterlee.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) Grant funding for CALM in East Durham CIC for £10,000 for the year September 2019 to August 2020 be agreed;**
- (ii) The project then be reviewed and consideration be given to further grant funding for CALM in East Durham CIC for £5,000 for the year September 2020 to August 2021; and**
- (iii) the monitoring of the effectiveness of this grant funding be delegated to the Community & Environment Committee via quarterly progress reports, with an Annual Report to be presented to full Council in due course.**

46. Parking on the Playing Fields at Lowhills Road

In March 2019 it was agreed consultation be carried out prior to installing a fence at Lowhills Road to prevent vehicular access to the playing fields on the grounds of safety.

Councillor Carne and Miles had now completed a survey with residents and would like Council to hear the results. Councillor Miles reported he had canvassed 61 houses near to the site, at 7 houses there was no answer. All of the residents they had spoken to said "yes" to a fence and he asked for his colleagues' support.

RESOLVED it be agreed in principal to install a birds mouth style barrier fence at Lowhills Road playing fields and both advice on its location in relation to the highway and options/prices be reported back to Council for approval.

47. Mayor's/Chair's Report

The Mayor, Councillor Terry Duffy, offered his first report to Council on the civic duties he had carried out since becoming Mayor in May 2019, (attached). He thanked everyone for their support. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

48. Spokesperson of the North East Party's Report

Councillor A Watson welcomed Councillor Howarth to the Town Council and made reference to comments made on social media about the recent election in the Edenhill Ward and also to the turnout and final result.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted.

Councillor C Watkins left the meeting at 7.50pm.

49. Spokesperson of the Labour Political Party's Report

Councillor Fenwick welcomed Councillor Howarth to the Town Council. She reported the Easington Constituency Labour Party had been making donations of food rather

than raffle prizes to the food banks in the absence of school dinners; she hoped for a future where we no longer depended on food banks. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

Mayor/Chairman's Report from Cllr Terry Duffy
July 2019 Council Meeting

This is the 1st Mayors report presented within this Council's term. I believe it is important that there is some record of the Mayor's activities, not only to keep other Members informed, but more importantly for the information of the residents of Peterlee. This, and future Mayor's reports will be recorded in the Minutes, of this meeting, for any interested party to see.

One of my first Civic duties was to attend the celebrations in Haswell on the opening of The Hive, next to the Lisa Dixon Centre. The once named Furni-Shed has been revamped and a great meeting place and licensed function suite has been created. I extended good luck wishes for the future success of The Hive on behalf of this Council.

I also visited the Rugby Club for the Natwest open day. What a lovely community event it was. Everyone seemed to have a great time and the weather was brilliant. It was great to see Members of this Council supporting the event. Well done to everyone concerned.

I had a lovely visit to Bannatyne Lodge, on Manor Way for their 40's themed event, meeting staff and residents. I took my family, visiting from America, with me and we all had a great time. I gave Bannatyne some bedding plants, courtesy of this Council, to enhance their already great new social gardening area.

Peterlee Town Council held their 2nd Armed Forces Day and it was a great privilege to open the event and to celebrate our great service men and women with the people of Peterlee. Thank you to Cllr Rob Moore and the events team for their input. This is a growing event and I know that members are keen to make it even bigger and better next year.

I had the pleasure of attending Dene House Primary school and awarding 6 local children with a Mayors Award. These great kids had cleaned and tidied, weeded and swept an area near their home just because they wanted it to look nice – what an amazing bunch they are. Peterlee Town Council supplied some bedding plants to these children so they could plant a raised bed to add colour to their project and to keep the children engaged in the future. Children like these need to be recognised and the school, their parents and I, are very proud of them.

I presented a Neighbourhood Engagement Project cheque to Peterlee Martial Arts club. Bob Anderson, who was recently awarded the British Empire Medal for voluntary service to sport, and some club members came to Shotton Hall to

receive the award cheque. Bob has subsequently sent a letter of thanks to this council on behalf of Peterlee Martial Arts Club.

The Peterlee Town Twinning group held their Farewell party at Shotton Hall and I was invited to meet with all of the visiting guests. I had a really pleasant evening and our guests had a great time. I heard stories of their time spent in our area and I must convey theirs and my own thanks to Cllr Mary Cartwright for making their stay possible and for making sure they all had a place to sleep and were well fed. Well done to Mary and the Twinning committee.

I had a “Blooming” lovely time visiting all of the beautiful gardens entered in the garden competition. Peterlee has some very talented gardeners and I don’t envy the judges task of deciding on the best in every class. There were more gardens entered this year, thanks to members sharing the Facebook posts and drumming up interest. The winners will be revealed later this week.

I am really enjoying my term as the Mayor of Peterlee and I look forward to updating you further at the next Council meeting.