

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER 2019 at 6.30PM

PRESENT:- COUN T DUFFY (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- D Howarth, K Liddell, K J Duffy, S Simpson, K Hawley,
M A Cartwright & S McDonnell

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

63. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were offered and accepted from Councillors A C Long, S McGlen, S Franklin & L Fenwick.

64. Public Participation Session

A public participation session was held to allow members of the public an opportunity to put questions to the Council. Margaret Hotham, Treasurer of Acre Rigg Social Club was at the meeting to speak about the car park at the Social Club along with two other representatives. She thanked the Council for the opportunity to come along and address them and she gave out information they had prepared regarding the covenants in place between the Club and the Town Council relating to maintenance of the car park and their contribution towards this. They asked for help from the Town Council to consider reducing this financial commitment as contained in the lease. **RESOLVED the Town Clerk prepare a report for a future meeting for Council to consider on the covenants for the car park at Acre Rigg Social Club.**

65. 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 Acre Rigg Social Club and left the meeting when Mrs Hotham addressed the Council. Councillor Kyle also declared an interest in that item but remained in the meeting. Councillor K Liddell declared an interest in the report on football fees.

66. Police Report

PCSO Simon Walters reported the off road bikes section had been carrying out patrols in Peterlee over the summer. As a result of intelligence received from the local community the Police had issued 8 warning notices on people suspected of anti social

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behavior involving motorbikes. Members reported it was not only off road motorbikes causing an issue but also “boy racers” in cars causing noise and nuisance to local residents. The Town Clerk confirmed that a meeting had been arranged for November 2019 with the Police, Believe Housing, ASB Team and the Parks Department to discuss further partnership action to tackle this issue. PCSO Walters advised he was to hold a charity afternoon tea on 16th November 2019 and would be presenting young hero awards. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

67. Mayor’s/Chair’s Report

The Mayor, Councillor Terry Duffy, offered his second report to Council on the civic duties he had carried out since the last meeting, (attached). The Mayor thanked everyone for their part in the Bogey Derby. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

68. The Minutes of the last meeting of the 19th August 2019 & Extra Ordinary Meeting held on 2nd September 2019 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed as a true and correct record

69. The Minutes of the Resources Committee of the 2nd September 2019 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were noted.

70. The Minutes of the Community & Environment Committee of the 9th September 2019 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were noted.

71. The Reports from the Scrutiny Working Party Meetings held on Friday 19th July 2019, Friday 9th August 2019 and 13th September 2019 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were noted.

72. Planning Applications, signs for the Peterlee Hand Car wash Bede Way & free standing canvas weather canopy supported off cantilevered structure and columns
The Town Clerk reported that written representation had been received from Councillor Fenwick and a local resident in opposition to the planning application. **RESOLVED a request be made for a Planning Officer to visit the site to review if the signage is appropriate for the location in the Town Centre.**

73. Fees & charges for football pitch hire

Members received a report from the Town Clerk and Sports & Wellbeing Manager confirming a review of fees and charges for football pitch hire for the 2019/20 season.

In considering the report reference was made to the need to reinforce and apply the rules attached to permission being granted to play at PTC's sites, especially with regard to litter and car parking on the fields.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) the contents of the report be noted and approval be given to the new simplified "all inclusive" pricing structure as detailed in the report for Teams from Peterlee;**
- (ii) for Teams outside the Town the fees be increased by 50% this year and 100% in years two and three;**
- (iii) the pitch prices for Teams from Peterlee for the 2020/21 and 2021/22 be set as plus inflation rounded up to the nearest £5.00.**

74. Notice of Conclusion of Audit 2018/19

Members received a verbal report from the Town Clerk on the conclusion of the external audit for the financial year ending 31st March 2018 and a copy of the Auditor's (Mazars LLP, Durham), letter, completed AGAR form and draft Completion Notice were circulated. On the basis of their review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance Accountability Return, in the auditor's opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return were in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met. There were no other matters not affecting their opinion drawn to the attention of the authority. Members expressed their appreciation to the Town Clerk and Officers for this report. **RESOLVED the report be accepted and the notice of the conclusion of the audit for 2018/19 be posted on the Town Council's web site.**

75. Christmas Tree – Post Office roundabout

The Town Clerk reported receipt of a quote from DCC streetlighting given following a request made by Councillor McDonnell. The price was to install power, a tree pit and a dressed christmas tree for the ASDA/post office roundabout in the Town Centre. It was suggested that perhaps Praxis and the developers of the new site along with Asda, Believe Housing be asked if they wished to sponsor support this installation and Councillor McDonnell agreed to progress this with the Town Clerk. During discussion it was also asked if DCC could be asked for a price to decorate the tree at Shotton Hall. It was asked if a breakdown could be obtained on the cost of the work and then the ongoing future costs. It was also suggested the Mayor also switch this tree on. **RESOLVED the proposal received from DCC Streetlighting be accepted and further enquiries be made as discussed.**

76. Spokesperson of the North East Party's Report

Councillor A Watson spoke on the fence being agreed for Lowhills Road making the fields safer, supporting residents and also stopping unauthorised access to the fields. He commented on the recent Bogey Derby which had been brilliant. He was pleased to report on progress with the installation of the new play areas, with some of the

Town Council's reserves being used to finance these projects. He offered his congratulations to the Town Clerk on the conclusion of the Audit with no issues raised. He was disappointed to report the lift in the town centre had only been fixed a few weeks ago, almost four weeks after the positive meeting held with the Representatives of the owners of the Town Centre. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

77. Spokesperson of the Labour Political Party's Report

Councillor Watkins reported in the absence of Councillor Fenwick. He offered his congratulations on recent events, the Peterlee Show and the Bogey Derby. He was pleased there was to be progress made with the new play areas and he also said "well done" to the Clerk and the team for the completed Audit. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

MAYOR'S REPORT SEPT 2019

"This month started with a visit to Hawthorn's Nursing Home, in Peterlee. The staff invited me to their open day, which was well attended. I was shown around the home and introduced to residents and staff. I returned a few days later to spend a little time visiting with one of their special residents.

I have also been back to East Durham College to help present the certificates, that were signed by Boris Johnson, to the NCS students that I met last month. All of the students greatly deserved this recognition.

I had the honour of opening Peterlee's 47th Show. The show was bigger and better, than ever, this year with a new layout and the introduction of the Circus, which was a great success. I spent most of the weekend meeting and greeting visitors and I thoroughly enjoyed it all. It really is a great feeling when you witness Peterlee people come together for fun and family time. Well done to all those that helped make this event a great success.

I proudly attended the launch of a new business called LG Therapy, situated within the Leisure Centre. LG Therapy offer physiotherapy services and holistic health and healing treatments. I urge you to drop in and have a look around.

The Soapbox Bogey Derby- what can I say that hasn't already been said by members of the public. What a fantastic day! I must say a special thank you to Cllr Andrew Watson for the initial idea and to all of the other councillors and staff that supported this event from the offset, we definitely proved the doubters wrong. I can only envisage this event getting bigger and better every year. With the Clerk's and the Park's Dept help I was able to secure the fencing needed to allow for the extension to the Community Garden, in Woodhouse Park. Thank you to Keepmoat for their kind donation of this fencing and good luck to the Community Garden.

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My consort Taiya Duffy and I attended Washington Old Hall for a Heritage Walk. We were given a great history lesson all about the area, the building and the people who built it and lived there. It was a great educational day and the weather was lovely which really added to the day”.