

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2019 at 6.30PM

PRESENT:- COUN T DUFFY (CHAIR)

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

Messrs:- S Miles, G L Carne, A Watson & C Watkins

90. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were offered and accepted from Councillors S McDonnell, A Wilkinson, R Moore & S McGlen.

91. Public Participation Session

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

92. Police Report

PCSO Simon Walters offered his thanks to the Mayor and Council for their support with the recent event held in Shotton Hall Banqueting Suites. A sum of £279 was raised on the day and the feedback from those attending had been very positive.

He then gave the monthly update report. It was reported there had not been any major hot spots this month and that a Week of Action was to be held issuing warrants, dealing with speeding vehicles, drugs etc. Reference was made to the Peterlee Police Newsletter and it was agreed if that was sent to the Office it could be circulated to every Member. There were several issues raised which included youths attacking vehicles with stones and mud and again frustrations with the 101 Police reporting system.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted.

93. Mayor's/Chair's Report

“November has been a very busy month and I have met some amazing people and have had a lot of fun.

November 5th – fireworks display

For the 2nd year running this Council hosted a low noise fireworks display. Sadly the rain meant that the cricket square was off limits but we have learned from this and next year we will be ready to move the display, if needed, to safer ground. The low noise fireworks

enabled people with sensory differences to join in the fun, with a support group using the Pavilion for the first time and many young people attending their very first fireworks display. Thank you, Cllr Andrew Watson, for providing the music for the event – very few people appreciate the time and effort that you put in to all Council events for the benefit of Peterlee people.

Remembrance Sunday

It was an honour and a privilege to lay a wreath on behalf of this Council at a well-attended Remembrance Parade. It was great to see so many groups of both veterans and children at the event, with representation from both the Police and the Fire Service too. I must extend my gratitude to Cllr Rob Moore for his help and efforts throughout this event.

Showman's Guild Luncheon

I attended the Showman's Guild Luncheon for the first time and met with the body of showman that are responsible from providing the fairground for our Peterlee Show. I also met with many other Mayors and dignitaries from right across our region.

Various events and cheque presentations

I attended the Field of Flowers event at Woodhouse Park which was funded by Cllr Susan McDonnell and Cllr Karon Liddell. The field of flowers was a display of plastic bottles that had been turned into flowers. It was visually striking and thanks to Maggie Parker for running the workshops that produced the wonderful display.

I presented cheques, from the Neighbourhood Engagement Project, to the Indoor Bowlers at the Pavilion and to 2 children's football teams made up mainly of Peterlee children.

I met with a group of students from Slovenia, Italy and Poland that were visiting Peterlee. It was lovely to see young people from other countries and spending time with them to share a little of Peterlee's history.

PCSO Simon Walters made use of one of my concessionary use days to host a fund-raising tea party, funded by the Neighbourhood Engagement Projects, for the families and young people in Peterlee that benefit from the Learning Library. The Learning Library loans specialist toys and equipment to children with sensory needs. He invited many of the Young Heroes that have already received certificates this year and together all of the children had a lovely time and the tea delicious. I also visited the Learning Library with Simon today, to present their cheque from the proceeds of the fundraiser. I was invited to East Durham College to present to the final group of NCS students at the college. They were an amazing group that had raised over £1500 for Café Together in Easington Colliery. This café, based in the church, feeds needy people a 2-course meal for only £1 and the children eat for free. This resource is sadly relied upon by many families in our area and it was a pleasure to meet those responsible.

Last but by no means least Peterlee Town Council has its very first Christmas Tree on the roundabout in the town centre. Well done to everyone concerned – from the initial idea to the lighting of the decorations. The tree not only looks amazing but is a great success with the people of Peterlee – it was even visited by Santa Claus himself!"

94. To receive declarations of interest
Members were reminded of the need to disclose any interests in items on this agenda, whether pecuniary or otherwise. Councillor T Duffy declared an interest in the item relating to the Thorntree Gill Leisure Gardens Amenity Room/store.
95. To Approve the Minutes of the last meeting of the 28th October 2019 the minutes of the previous meeting were attached for consideration and were approved as a true and correct record, subject to the amendment suggested regarding Additional Policing Resource for Peterlee being amended to read:-
“with at best an increase of 200 across the county over the next three years, which he stressed would be fully warranted Police Officers, but not all necessarily on the beat.”
Members noted the contents of the letter received from Mr Steve White, Acting Chief Executive the Office of the Durham Police, Crime & Victim’s Commissioner following his attendance at the last meeting. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**
96. The Minutes of the Resources Committee of the 4th November 2019 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were noted.
97. The Minutes of the Community & Environment Committee of the 11th November 2019 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were noted.
98. Minutes of the Scrutiny Meeting of the 15th November 2019 – Shotton Hall a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were noted. The Town Clerk outlined discussions that had been held at the Scrutiny Meetings and Council were assured that they would be kept fully updated with progress and any major decisions would be presented with a report with recommendations made to Council. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**
99. Show Layout – to finalise and agree
It was reported the layout had been considered in detail at the Events Working Party held on Monday 18th November 2019. Whilst there was concern at the drainage on the cricket field that had caused issues at the Firework Display, it was **RESOLVED the circus and marquees be located on the cricket pitch with the bands and main stage being set up on the rugby field.**
100. Award of contract – Thorntree Gill Leisure Gardens Amenity Room/Store
Members were advised of the outcome of the procurement process for the proposed contract for the Thorntree Gill Project and award the contract to the value of £100,012.36 and a copy of the report of the Town Clerk was considered. All three of the qualifying submissions passed the mandatory criteria relating to financial standing,

insurances and approach to health and safety and Construction and Design Management regulations. The design element of this project was undertaken in consultation with representatives from the Thorntree Gill Leisure Gardeners Association. The plans had already received planning and building regulation approval. The project was procured in line with the Council's Financial Regulations and Standing Orders via an open tendering process advertised through national contract portals and also via the council's facebook page and web site.

In considering the potential cost of the project several suggestions were made for seeking external funding including Durham County Councillors, Section 106 funding, National Lottery or private funding eg Asda. Following considerable discussion it was **RESOLVED consideration of this item be deferred to the next meeting.**

101. Spokesperson of the North East Party's Report

Councillor A Watson reported Firework Night had been a huge success and there had been lots of positive feedback on the low noise fireworks, he said "well done" to everyone involved. He thanked Councillor Rob Moore for his efforts with the Remembrance Day Service. He reported the newly installed play area at Woodhouse Park was looking good. He said the tree on the roundabout had received an excellent response from the public via social media, all comments being very positive and he again said "well done" to everyone involved. He spoke on the tree lighting for Shotton Hall and feedback he had received on the need for a ticket to attend. In closing he mentioned his colleague Susan McDonnell was standing for election at the forthcoming general election. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

102. Spokesperson of the Labour Political Party's Report

Councillor Fenwick commented it was nice to meet with Steve White the Acting Commissioner at the last meeting and she wished him well with his post and was pleased to hear he felt "Peterlee is on the up", she agreed mentioning the new retail park, improvements to the Leisure Centre. She sent her best wishes to Mr Ron Hogg. Councillor Fenwick advised both herself and Councillor Meikle were helping with the Christmas Gift initiative. In closing she said the new Christmas tree on the roundabout was lovely. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**