

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2019 at 6.30PM

PRESENT:- COUN T DUFFY (CHAIR)

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

Messrs:- A Watson, S Miles, S McGlen & R Moore

103. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were offered and accepted from Councillors S McDonnell, K Liddell, G Carne, S Meikle & C Watkins.

104. 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.

105. Free Paper

The Chair welcomed Lesley Palmer Editor and Producer of various community magazines to the meeting. Ms Palmer gave her history in the sector and explained that for the last 20 years she had been working with various local authorities, including locally Seaham and Thornaby to produce a free community magazine which was delivered to every household in their area. She understood and agreed her credibility depended on delivery of the magazine. Costs were provided to produce 10,000 magazines, designed, printed and delivered. Members agreed that a free magazine would be a positive thing for the Town and agreed that the Town Clerk confirm further details before bringing back to the Council for approval. **RESOLVED this be considered at a future meeting.**

106. Police Report

PCSO Simon Walters offered his apologies and the Deputy Town Clerk gave the report on his behalf. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

107. Mayor's/Chair's Report

“In the last month I made a very special visit to Dene Academy to present the first of the Mayor's Awards. The pupils at Dene, that were too young to take part in the Duke

of Edinburgh Awards, had worked extremely hard to reach their Bronze Awards, and a few had gone on to reach their Silver Awards too. They had taken part in various activities including orienteering and volunteering with Natural England in Castle Eden Dene to clear out non native plants. Before receiving their awards, the Pupils gave a very humorous presentation on how they had reached their various levels. It was lovely to hear their stories and to see how much they had gained in confidence along the way. The pupils and staff are, quite rightly, very proud of their achievements and intend to carry on with the Mayor's Award for years to come. The Award and all of the literature associated with it carries the Peterlee Town Council logo and I would hope that this council can find a way to support Dene so they are able to continue with the Mayor's Award.

We had our Tree Lighting Event at Shotton Hall, which was well attended. Many attendees said that we had the "Best Santa and Mrs Claus that they had ever seen" so thank you to Cllrs Andrew Watson and Karon Liddell for volunteering their time to such a lovely event. The tree and surrounding shrubbery look amazing and the event really did kick start Christmas. Well done to all concerned.

I was invited to CALM in East Durham's Christmas party which brought together Bring Ya Thing, PATHH and Barbara Chrisp's Yoga group at the Pavilion. Many Peterlee residents have come to rely on these groups for their social and emotional wellbeing and they really do know how to throw a party.

The Mayoress and I had the pleasure of opening the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides Christmas fair at the Guide House on O'Neill Drive. We received a warm welcome and it was lovely to see everyone having a great time whilst they raised funds for future activities.

From there we hot footed it over to the Castle Eden Dene Lodge to attend their annual Christmas Open Day. We met with the Staff and volunteers that keep our Dene beautiful and accessible and we also bumped into our very own Cllrs Andrew Watson and Karon Liddell who had gladly given up their Sunday to be Mr and Mrs Claus for them for the day.

I had great delight in attending the Festive Christmas Celebration Event, which was held at the Pavilion for people living with Dementia and their families and carers. Dene Academy choir sang beautifully and everyone joined in for a great Christmas sing along. Well done Sharon and Elaine for organising such a fabulous event and to top it off the food was lovely which they had cooked too.

The Mayoress and I would like to wish all Peterlee Residents, Town Council Staff and our fellow Councillors a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year".

108. 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 L Fenwick declared an interest in the item relating to the Edenhills People Centre – request for grant fund.

109. To Approve the Minutes of the last meeting of the 25th November 2019 the minutes of the previous meeting were attached for consideration and were approved as a true and correct record,
110. The Minutes of the Resources Committee of the 2nd December 2019 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were noted. It was asked that a line be deleted from the minutes as it was felt it was not needed and this was agreed.
Matters Arising
A Christmas Gift, Edenhill People's Centre, requesting £300
Members considered an award towards the group giving back to the community through donated gifts. The Deputy Town Clerk reported both Councillor Meikle and Watkins had made pledges prior to the meeting of £200 and £50 respectively. At the meeting Councillor Mary Cartwright made a grant of £50.00. **RESOLVED a grant of £300.00 be made towards a Christmas Gift, Edenhill People's Centre.**
111. The Minutes of the Community & Environment Committee of the 9th December 2019 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were noted.
Matters Arising
Taste Buddies – financial support
RESOLVED PTC fund Taste Buddies until the end of March 2020 and at this time the funding of the project be reviewed.
112. Out of date stock write off, The Pavilion
Members were notified of the write off of out of date bar stock at The Pavilion to a value of £443.50. **RESOLVED the contents of the report be noted and the stock to the value of £443.50 be written off.**
113. Budget out turn report 2019/20 (Quarter 2)
Members received a report from the Town Clerk on the quarter 2 budget out turn position. **RESOLVED the contents of the report be noted, along with the Appendices 1 & 2 which set out the quarter 2 variances by budget head and summary explanations for each variance over 15%.**
114. Budget 2020/21
Council received a presentation from the Town Clerk outlining the key issues affecting the Council's budget for the 2020/21 financial year. He outlined the opportunities and pressures facing the Town Council for 2020/21 and gave the various options for the precept. He assured he would be reporting to each Committee in January prior to the precept amount being agreed and he asked for feedback from Members. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

115. Change of date of the council meeting in January 2020
RESOLVED the date of the Council meeting be moved to Monday 20th January 2020 to meet precept deadlines.
116. Spokesperson of the North East Party's Report
Councillor A Watson spoke about the recent general election results and offered his opinion on the campaigns that had been run. In closing he wished everyone a Happy Christmas. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**
117. Spokesperson of the Labour Political Party's Report
Councillor Fenwick also spoke about the recent general election results. She mentioned the drop in session being held for the Horden Railway Station. She wished everyone a Happy Christmas. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

In closing the meeting the Mayor wished everyone a Merry Christmas.