

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD ONLINE USING VIDEO CONFERENCING TECHNOLOGY

ON MONDAY 18<sup>th</sup> MAY 2020 at 6.00PM

PRESENT:- COUN T DUFFY (CHAIR)

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

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were offered and accepted from Councillors D Howarth & K Liddell.

2. Mayor's/Chair's Report

The Mayor advised he had made two Mayor's Awards to local people and he had also attended a recent funeral representing PTC.

Councillor Fenwick left the meeting as she had issues with her remote connection.

3. 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 A Wilkinson declared an interest in item 8(b) as he had been assisting the applicant in seeking funding and sponsorship. Councillor S McGlen declared an interest in item 8(c) as he was a volunteer for Community Spirit.

4. To Approve the Minutes of the last meeting of the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2020

The minutes of the previous meeting were attached for consideration and were approved as a true and correct record, subject to Councillor Moore being shown as in attendance.

5. COVID-19 Update

The Town Clerk provided an update on progress with the Council's response to the COVID situation.

Staff were now back at work on a full-time basis as much as possible, with home working happening where safe and practicable to do so in line with Government guidance. Managers had reviewed the government's COVID-Secure guidance for workplaces and appropriate risk assessments and changes to working practices had been taken. To date no staff members have been confirmed as having the disease. The Council continued to deliver phone befriending for PACES and Taste Buddies members and other vulnerable residents, and the Sports & Wellbeing Team were also continuing with their increasingly popular online exercise classes.

The Council had received confirmation of a successful application for Shielding Support Service project grant funding and Members were encouraged to get out into their local communities to identify potential recipients aged 70 or over and in need of some additional support. Members were reminded that forms had already been distributed to help them to record details of the recipients to then pass on to the office, and that more forms could be provided to them on request.

It was agreed that the main driving force for recruitment would be local Members using their knowledge and networks.

It was also agreed that referrals for other forms of support such as shopping and prescription collection etc. would be referred back to local Members in the first instance, and then potentially passed on to other agencies to help if local Members were unable to help directly. It was agreed food parcels would be provided weekly, potentially moving to fortnightly at a later date and this would continue as long as the Council had funds to do so.

A Councillor mentioned that Home Group were running a scheme 'County Durham Home Safe' from Belmont and the Clerk agreed to make contact with Home Group to establish whether this was something that the Town Council could tap in to in Peterlee.

A Member asked about parks and play areas and the Town Clerk confirmed whilst Woodhouse Park was open to the public, all of the Town Council's play areas remain closed as per the Government's guidelines.

**RESOLVED the information given, be noted and actions taken in this regard, be endorsed.**

Councillor Carne joined the meeting remotely at 6.45pm.

6. Peterlee Show 2020

The Clerk requested Council review arrangements for the 2020 Peterlee Show in the light of current COVID situation. There was considerable discussion and whilst they were disappointed to do so it was agreed unanimously that this year's Peterlee Show would be cancelled. **RESOLVED the 2020 Peterlee Show be cancelled and that arrangements with suppliers and acts etc be rolled to 2021 where practicable to do so.**

7. NEP Funding Applications

Members considered applications from the following groups/organisations:-

(a) Stray Aid, requesting £16,000 - £20,00 towards Paws in the Playground Program

Members asked that to help manage expectations of those applying for a grant, the NEP application form and covering advice include reference to the budget size of the fund, £500 per Member per year. It was suggested that the application was for running costs and not for a specific project. **RESOLVED consideration of this request be deferred and Stray Aid be asked to clarify the details given in their request and possibly re submit a new application.**

Prior to consideration of this item Councillor Wilkinson, having disclosed an interest, left the meeting for the duration of the discussion on the item.

(b) East Durham FSS FC Mental Health Team, requesting £500

Following consideration, **it was RESOLVED a grant of £500.00 be made to this Team.**

(c) Community Spirit, £500 towards the cost of running costs in respect of their Covid-19 Neighbour Support activity

**RESOLVED an initial grant of £100.00 be made and the Group be asked to clarify the details given in their grant request.**

(d) Skill Mill, requesting £30,000 to cover their core costs until August 2020

As with an earlier application the request was in excess of the allocated NEP budget. **RESOLVED this application be reconsidered when all of the information had been received.**

(e)East Durham FC under 12s – requesting £800 to help establish the Team

Consideration was given to this request and it was suggested they re-apply when they had established a bank account. **RESOLVED the group be asked to supply their bank details.**

8. Football Pitch Hire Fees 2020/21

Members considered a proposal from the Town Clerk to suspend football pitch fees for the 2020/21 season for teams who renew their pitch hire agreement for the new season and his report was circulated with the details. There was considerable discussion on the item and it was **RESOLVED approval be given to the proposal to suspend the football pitch hire fees for the new 2020/21 season for the teams who were hirers for the previous 2019/20 season.**

9. Spokesperson of the North East Party's Report

Councillor A Watson suggested that everyone "Be Alert". **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

10. Spokesperson of the Labour Political Party's Report

Councillor McGlen offered Councillor Fenwick's report to the meeting. She thanked the key workers. She said her thoughts were with parents who had to decide whether or not to send their children to school and she felt all you could do was to try and make the best decisions for you and your family. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**