

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE BRANDLING SUITE & ONLINE USING VIDEO CONFERENCING TECHNOLOGY

ON MONDAY 22ND JUNE 2020 at 6.00PM

PRESENT:- COUN T DUFFY (CHAIR)

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

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

11. Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were offered to the meeting.

12. Mayor's/Chair's Report

The Mayor advised he was helping with the Shielding Support Scheme and he felt happy with how things are progressing in the town during these difficult times. He had hoisted the flag for Armed Forces Day in support of the men and women who make up the Armed Forces Community. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

13. To receive declarations of interest

Members were reminded of the need to disclose any interests in items on this agenda, whether pecuniary or otherwise. No declarations of interest were submitted.

CLlr Moore left the meeting briefly at this point due to technical issues. He re-joined soon after.

14. Public Participation Session

Mr Paul Wilding, Chairperson of Community Spirit, thanked the Council for giving him the opportunity to speak at the meeting. He voiced his concerns at the way an application for funding by Community Spirit had been considered, and provided a response to the issues that had been raised at the previous meeting. He intended sending a full statement into

the council about this and it was agreed the Town Clerk respond to it on behalf of the Council. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

15. CALM in East Durham

The Council considered the second quarterly report on the CALM in East Durham project that the Town Council was supporting. Ms Crisp was in the meeting virtually and she gave an update on how the program had been delivered remotely from April 2020. She reported how proud she was of how well those in the programme had coped during the lock down, working together and supporting each other. Her priority was to start work at the Lowhills Road site and then they could start to deliver sessions there. In the meantime she asked for ideas for a shaded area outside so that users could come to the site in the summer. The Council were asked if it would be possible to release funding earlier than the original September due date. **RESOLVED CALM submit a further request for funding, including details, and this be considered at the meeting to be held in July 2020. FURTHER RESOLVED that CALM CIC be given a key for the car park gate to enable them to access the car park at times when the gate is closed.**

16. To Approve the Minutes of the last meeting of the 18th May 2020

The minutes of the previous meeting were attached for consideration and approval. It was noted that Councillor Fenwick had joined the previous meeting items 5-6 however had then left the meeting between items 6 -7, due to technical issues.

In relation to item 7(c) NEP Funding Applications – Community Spirit there was considerable discussion over what had been agreed at the meeting and the way that it was recorded in the minutes. It was confirmed that the original application for funding had not been rejected, and that £100 had been pledged by two Councillors and further information had been requested.

RESOLVED the information be noted.

17. COVID-19 Update

The Town Clerk provided an update on progress with the Council's response to the COVID situation. He confirmed that there were no known cases of COVID in the Council's workforce. The majority of staff were back at work although homeworking was still being used where appropriate. Furloughed salaried staff had now returned to work and plans were being prepared for reopening The Pavilion and Shotton Hall to the public in coming weeks, depending on the Government's announcements on the easing of restrictions. Dynamic risk assessments were in place and being sent to prospective hirers and both commercial and private hirers were being actively engaged to prepare for new business as soon as was possible. The Sports & Wellbeing Manager and Parks Manager were working with sports users to enable them to return to training as safely as possible. The Town Council's over-70s Shielding Support Service project had so far

delivered over 380 Care Packages and made almost 200 befriending phone calls to vulnerable members of the local community. The Clerk thanked all of the Elected Members who had volunteered their time and effort to assist with forming and delivering the support packages. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

18. MUGA Resurfacing

Members were asked to consider un-freezing the budget for the Helford Road MUGA surface to enable the contract to be awarded and work to begin while the facility was closed. Members were reminded that the resurfacing of the MUGA had already been approved by Council but was put on hold during the early days of the COVID shutdown period. Members accepted the advice of the Town Clerk and it was **RESOLVED the works go ahead on the MUGA resurfacing.**

19. Notice of Motion – Councillor A Watson

Members were asked to consider the provision of devices by the Town Council for Councillors' use. He suggested a limit be set of for example £150.00 per person to purchase a device of their choice, which would then be classed a property of the Town Council. He also spoke on the requirement to have an internet connection to use with a device. The Town Clerk reported some larger parish/town councils did provide devices for Members and he suggested he prepare a report for the next meeting for consideration. **RESOLVED a report be submitted to a future meeting on the provision of devices and support with an internet package/connection for Members to support their role as a town councillor.**

20. Investors in People

Council received a report about the recent award of Investors in People accreditation for the Town Council. Members congratulated the Town Clerk for achieving this award, they felt this was a testament to a change of attitude at the Town Council. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

21. 2019/20 Financial year end budget report

Council received a report summarising the year- end budget outturn for the last financial year. The Town Clerk took Members through the report in summary there had been an underspend of 2% of the total gross budget. **RESOLVED the content of the report be noted along with the Council's 2019/20 budget outturn position.**

22. 2019/20 Final Accounts and Annual Audit

Council were requested to approve the final accounts, Annual Governance & Accountability Return and Annual Governance Statement for approval prior to the period of public rights and submission to the external auditor. **RESOLVED THE Annual Internal Audit Report 2019/20 be accepted, and Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement and Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2019/20, be approved and they be signed by the Chairman.**

23. Spokesperson of the North East Party's Report

Councillor A Watson had nothing to report to Council. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

24. Spokesperson of the Labour Political Party's Report

Councillor Fenwick commented that despite the set backs as a result of Covid 19 the retail park was set to open on time. She reported Grahame Morris MP had relocated his constituency office from the Glebe Centre, Murton to Seaton Holme, Easington. Councillor Fenwick congratulated the Clerk on the Council being awarded Investors in People. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

25. Use of Glysohate

The Chair Mayor asked the Council if they would re consider the Council's policy of banning the use of this weed killer. **RESOLVED this item be considered at the next Council Meeting.**