

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE BRANDLING SUITE & ONLINE USING VIDEO CONFERENCING TECHNOLOGY

ON MONDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 2020 at 6.00PM

PRESENT:- COUN T DUFFY (CHAIR)

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

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

81. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were offered to the meeting from Councillors S McGlen, A C Long & G Johnson.

82. Mayor's/Chair's Report

The Mayor reported he was going to cancel making a report for the next few months due to ongoing COVID restrictions. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

83. 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 S Miles declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8 on the agenda relating to the NEP Funding Applications, he is a member of the East Coast Scale Model Club. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

84. To Approve the Minutes of the last meeting of the 26th October 2020

The minutes of the previous meeting were attached for consideration and approval. **RESOLVED the minutes be accepted and signed as a true and correct record.**

85. To approve the Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting of the 19th November 2020
The minutes of the previous meeting were attached for consideration and approval. **RESOLVED the minutes be accepted and signed as a true and correct record, subject to no apologies for absence being submitted to the meeting.**
86. COVID-19 Update
The Deputy Town Clerk gave a brief update on the Council's response to the COVID-19 situation. Including details of feedback form those receiving the weekly support calls. Members asked that their appreciation be conveyed to the administration staff making the Shielding Support Calls to older residents in the Town. **RESOLVED the Council's thanks and appreciation be conveyed to the staff making the Shielding Support calls.**
87. NEP Funding Application
East Coast Scale Model Club – requesting £500 towards making model kits and teaching the history behind them

Details of the application were provided by the Deputy Town Clerk to the meeting. Following consideration it was **RESOLVED a grant of £500 be made to this Club.**
88. KickStart Scheme

Notice of Motion received from Councillor K Hawley: that the Town Council consider the adoption of the KickStart Scheme. Members were circulated with a copy of a briefing note on the KickStart Scheme which provides funding to create new job placements for 16-24 year olds on Universal Credit who are at risk of long term unemployment, which was to cover work placements spread across a period of December 2020 to December 2021. There was considerable discussion on the topic and it was generally agreed it was a scheme the Town Council would wish to support. Members asked for further details regarding costs to be brought back to the Council for further consideration.

RESOLVED this item be considered further at the next meeting when the costs of either accepting placements from the KickStart Project or the Council registering as a Kickstart provider, be provided.
89. Consultation on new Police custody arrangements

Notion of motion submitted by Cllr Louise Fenwick: that Peterlee Town Council objects to the proposed changes to Police custody arrangements in County Durham that will see the Peterlee custody suite close.

Despite audio issues at the meeting Councillor Fenwick advised she had brought this matter to council because she felt that we as a group should make a non-political united stand in opposing the proposed changes in custody arrangements that would directly affect Peterlee and result in the custody suites closing.

She felt at present the information available gave more questions than answers and she outlined the salient points:-

Point 1 - Spending £21 million pounds to save £400,000 per year did not make much sense;

Point 2 - How would the new centralised custody facility going to make the process quicker, were there going to be more personnel to speed things up? The main concern was about the transport of arrestees from Peterlee to Spennymoor, the time this journey to and from the custody suite would take, with at least two officers each trip, which would take police officers off the streets/patrol.

Point 3 - How is the new facility more efficient? It is understood there are going to be less cells available in the centralised facility than there are jointly available in the stations that are going to be affected. At present Durham has 15 cells, Darlington has 15, Bishop Auckland 9, Peterlee 14; that is a total of 53 cells currently available. The new facility would only have 48 cells.

Point 4- Why is an unelected PCVC making such a big decision?

Pont 5 - Is there going to be a consultation period for the general public to provide their feedback/give their views on the proposal?

Councillor Fenwick suggested the Council write to Steve White the interim Police, Crime and Victims Commissioner and Chief Constable Jo Farrell with its concerns and ask that the plans be delayed until the full and proper PCVC is elected after May and only then after a full public consultation was carried out. **RESOLVED this course of action be supported and agreed to.**

90. Spokesperson of the North East Party's Report

Councillor A Watson welcomed news of several potential vaccines for COVID being in development. He suggested that Peterlee Town Council should encourage people to take the vaccine up to help protect society. He expressed his hope that people would be

vaccinated and spoke of the history of vaccinations in combatting diseases. He welcomed the opening of the KFC franchise in the town and that he was looking forward to Starbucks opening. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

91. Spokesperson of the Labour Political Party's Report

Councillor Fenwick stated that it was exciting for the town to have KFC and then Starbucks opening soon. She was pleased that vaccines were in sight and encouraged everyone to hold strong until they could be delivered. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**