

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE BRANDLING SUITE, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021 at 6.30PM

PRESENT:- COUN M A CARTWRIGHT (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- M McCue, K J Duffy, D Quinn, D Howarth, K Liddell, S Simpson  
& S McDonnell

Messrs:- S Franklin, T Duffy, G Johnson, M Sanderson, R Moore, D Hawley &  
B Fishwick

40. Apologies for Absence  
Apologies for absence were offered and accepted from Councillors J Black, K Hawley, S Meikle, A E Laing & E Watson.
41. Public Participation Session  
There were no members of the public present.
42. 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 item 4 – County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service.
43. County Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue Service  
The Chair welcomed Mal Woodward, Watch Manager, Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue Service to the meeting and his colleague Lee Aspery, Fire Investigation, Arson Reduction and Young People Manager, County Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue Service who joined the meeting virtually. The representatives spoke about the education programmes and their work with local schools in the PHSE sessions held there. Mr Aspery

Mr Woodward spoke about the impact of secondary fires and provided he statistics for Members. He asked council for their suggestions or ideas on where they could help the Fire Service or where they could help the Council. Unfortunately the representatives explained that setting fires seemed to be the cultural norm in the North and fire was used as a means of solving a problem; the North East has fire within in as a “default setting”. He agreed fire could be closely linked to social deprivation. He said it was being addressed with a multi agency approach and he offered the anonymous Fire stoppers Help Line Telephone number of 0800 1695558.

The Chair thanked the representatives for attending/joining the meeting. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

44. Police Update

The Police were unable to attend the meeting and it was asked they be invited to attend in person at the next meeting if they were able. **RESOLVED this course of action be agreed.**

45. To Approve the Minutes of the last meeting of the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021

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 the amendment to Councillor T Duffy’s initials.**

46. The Minutes of the Resources Committee of the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021

The minutes of the Resources Meeting were attached for information. **RESOLVED the minutes be noted.**

47. The Minutes of the Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee of the 11<sup>th</sup> June & 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021

The minutes of the Scrutiny Meetings were attached for information. **RESOLVED the minutes be noted.**

48. Finance Sub Committee 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**RESOLVED the resolution of the Finance Sub Committee of 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 to approve BACS payments to be paid on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021 in the sum of £23,857.67, be confirmed and endorsed.**

49. COVID-19 Update

The Chief Officer gave a verbal update on the Council’s response to the COVID-19 situation. He reported the County’s figures were high and well above the national average. He asked for Member’s understanding and support in managing with what was

proving to be a difficult period with operations being more affected now than they ever had been during the pandemic. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

50. Code of Conduct

Members were asked to consider and adopt the Code of Conduct as issued by Durham County Council. **RESOLVED the Town Council adopt the new version of the Code of Conduct produced by Durham County Council, with immediate effect.**

51. Spokesperson of the North East Party's Report

Councillor S McDonnell offered her congratulations to the Community Garden Volunteers for the extended garden in Woodhouse Park and commented on the support of volunteers with recent events and activities. She gave a special mention to Councillor Johnson for his efforts with the Wombles letter picking initiative. She spoke about the Durham County Council Capital of Culture Bid where an announcement would be made in May 2022. Councillor McDonnell made reference to Anthony Gormley selecting the Apollo Pavilion as his subject for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Built Environment. She reported there were several reviews being undertaken by Durham County Council. She was concerned at the number of social media posts about anti social behaviour and asked if the newly appointed Crime Commissioner, Joy Allen, could be invited to attend a future meeting. **RESOLVED the report be noted and in invitation be extended to Joy Allen, Crime & Police Commissioner to a future meeting.**

52. Spokesperson of the Labour Political Party's Report

Councillor McCue reported the group were out speaking to residents, both young and old and assured that wherever they were able to work collaboratively that was their purpose on serving as a Town Councillor. **RESOLVED the report be noted.**