

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE BRANDLING SUITE, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021 at 6.30PM

PRESENT: - COUN M A CARTWRIGHT (CHAIR)

Mesdames: - S Simpson, K Duffy, E Watson, J Black & M McCue

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

92. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were offered and accepted from Councillors S McDonnell, K Hawley, A E Laing, G Johnson, K Liddell, D Howarth & D Quinn

93. Public Participation Session

There were no members of the public present.

94. To receive declarations of interest

Members were reminded of the need to disclose any interests in items on this agenda, whether pecuniary or otherwise.

95. To Approve the Minutes of the last meeting of the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021

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

96. Report of the Resources Committee of the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021

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

97. The notes of the Events Working Party of the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021  
The notes of the Events Working Party were attached for the information of Members. Members were asked to confirm the suggested price of 'early bird' tickets for Peterlee Music Fest 2022 as £20.00 per ticket and £35.00 for a weekend pass which would go on sale immediately, with prices increasing to £25/£45 after the 'early bird' period.  
**RESOLVED the information in the minutes, be noted and the suggested ticket prices for the Peterlee Music Fest be agreed.**
98. Notes of the Finance Sub Committee of the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021  
**RESOLVED the resolution of the Finance Sub Committee of 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021 to approve BACS payments to be paid on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021, be endorsed.**
99. COVID-19 Update  
Members received a verbal update from the Town Clerk on the Council's response to the COVID-19 situation. He confirmed that the Town Council had two of its employees off work with confirmed cases of COVID. All staff were continuing to take precautions with the use of screens, sanitizing, an office rota system and social distancing. He felt the main risk was operational where it would be difficult if a cluster of staff from the same team were ill at the same time, and that efforts so far had resulted in no known in-work transmission of the disease despite a significant number of staff now having had it. He would be continuing to keep update on the latest guidance and advised that the latest Government mask wearing mandate did not currently include public buildings. Members asked their kind regards be passed on to the two members of staff that had tested positive for Covid 19. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**
100. Woodhouse Park – Avenue of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Trees  
Members were asked to consider a report from the Parks Manager on options to deal with the '50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Avenue' of trees in Woodhouse Park which were substantially diseased, damaged or dead/dying. In considering the proposal it was suggested residents may wish to sponsor a tree and maybe an additional 25 trees, making 75 in total, be planted for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. **RESOLVED the removal and replating of the avenue of trees be agreed and they be replaced by 75 trees and residents, local community groups and businesses be invited to sponsor a tree.**

101. Quarter 2 Budget Outturn report

Members were asked to consider the budget outturn report for the first six months of the current financial year to 31<sup>st</sup> September 2021. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

102. Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and initial draft budget for 2022/23

**RESOLVED this item be deferred to the Community & Environment Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021.**

103. Award of contract for the Oakerside Play Area renewal contract

Members received a report from the Town Clerk and Parks Manager on the outcome of the procurement process for the Oakerside Drive play area renewal project including provision of new outdoor gym and toddler play areas outside the Pavilion Sports & Community Centre.

**RESOLVED approval be given to the award of the contract for the Oakerside/Pavilion Play Area renewal project to HAGS SMP Ltd at a value of £100,000 + VAT.**

104. Spokesperson of the North East Party's Report

Councillor K Duffy passed on her sympathies to everyone that had suffered from the effects of storm Arwen. Councillor McDonnell had sent her apologies and provided her report, which it was agreed would be circulated to all after the meeting. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

105. Spokesperson of the Labour Party's Report

Councillor McCue assured help would be given wherever possible to the Santa's Wish Project and local foodbanks. She expressed regret that it seemed that most vulnerable in our local communities were continuing to be hit even harder. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

106. Exclusion of the Press and Public

**RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the items to be discussed, the committee passed the formal resolution to exclude the press and public from the**

**meeting, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 & the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, Part 1, paragraphs 1 & 11.**

107. Proposals for the restructuring and renaming of the Town Council's Parks Department

Members received a report from the Town Clerk proposing a restructure and renaming of the Town Council's Parks Department and the launch of a formal consultation process with staff and the Trade Unions. Following discussion and clarification on areas of the report, it was unanimously **RESOLVED approval be given to the proposed renaming and restructuring of the Parks Department as outlined in the report, subject to staff and unions consultation.**