

PENISTONE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Town Council Meeting held on Monday
January 28th in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Penistone.**

Present: The Town Mayor Cllr. Barron, in the Chair, Cllrs. Cutts, Chapman, Hinchliff, Mrs. Hinchliff, Marsh, Mrs. Rusby, Starling, Unsworth, Webber, Mrs. Webber

Also present the **Town Clerk Keith Coulton, public, press.**

Before opening the meeting the Town Mayor allowed ten minutes public participation.

1. Apologies for absence – Cllrs. Green, Hand – Davis, Millner and Pilkington.
RESOLVED the apologies are recorded.

2. Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interest.
The **Town Mayor** invited declarations of which there were **NONE**

3. Approval of Minutes.
The Minutes of the following meetings were **approved** a true record and signed by the **Town Mayor** accordingly,

- a) The Town Council Meeting held on December 17th 2012 – subject to the amendment that **Cllr. Webber** reported on the Yorkshire Water activities at Bridge End in the absence of **Cllr. Mrs. Webber**.
- b) The Planning Committee held on December 17th 2012
- c) The Town Services Committee held on January 7th 2013 – subject to the amendment that **Cllr. Cutts** had asked for improvements to the sound system at the Christmas Market carol concert and not **Cllr. Mrs. Webber**.
- d) The Finance and General Purpose Committee held on January 15th 2013

4. Reports from Elected Members of Barnsley M.B.C.
Cllr. Mrs. Rusby all commented that this was a quiet period in the council diary and had no relevant reports for the period.

Cllr. Starling commented that the Planning and Regulatory board had approved the removal of a sycamore tree in Thurlstone village due to the tree becoming a danger and was to be replaced by an appropriate native species.

Cllr. Starling also commented on the budget cuts imposed by the Passenger Transport Executive, and that Barnsley M.B.C. is in the process of adopting a policy on wind turbines due to recent concerns as the authority has now reached its green energy quota required by the Government.

Cllr. Mrs. Rusby stated that **Cllr. Hand – Davis** had been active in this area in lobbying planning officers to adopt a policy on wind farms and a recent site visit to the area had appalled council planning members on how the structures were beginning to decimate the skyline, she also added that all new planning applications regarding wind farms were now deliberated carefully and individually.

Signed.....Mayor 18/02/13

Ward Members reports continued.

Cllr. Unsworth reported that future Rural Transport Partnership meetings were in jeopardy as the officer responsible for co - coordinating them was to be made redundant. These meetings were particularly useful for town and parish councils and asked if the ward members could have any input into retaining the partnership.

Cllr. Marsh supported **Cllr. Unsworth** on the rural transport issue and asked if a member of the Passenger Transport Executive be invited to a future meeting of the Town Council as Penistone is much a rural area and relied on the local bus services.

Cllr. Marsh also asked the ward members to investigate the outstanding section 106 monies and have a reply for the next meeting.

Cllr. Webber also supported the investigation into the section 106 monies and also wished to thank the winter maintenance and refuse collection crews during the recent inclement weather, and that the highway network had been satisfactory.

He also referred to a letter in the Barnsley Chronicle berating the Town Council in not investing in grit bins.

Penistone Town Council is not responsible for grit bins Barnsley M.B.C. is the Highway Authority and has a snow plan during snowfall. It is not a priority to clear estate roads.

Cllr. Barron asked what the new utility box related to which had been installed outside Millhouse Institute.

Cllr. Starling commented that British Telecom had been installing this new apparatus in the area.

5. Correspondence.

The following items of correspondence were **NOTED**

- a) Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber of Commerce offering membership.
- b) Fairtrade in Penistone – thank you letter for the recent donation
- c) Stocksbridge Leisure Centre – pending closure. The Town Council is to write to Sheffield City Council objecting to the closure and asking for retention.

6. Leisure and Amenities Report.

Cllr. Cutts referred to the recent meeting of the Leisure and Amenities Committee and was pleased to report the run of good films were continuing.

The pantomime was booking satisfactorily.

The Mike Harding show had sold out and Toby Foster had various dates booked.

Various refurbishment works were required in the building such as the kiosk and front door shutters which needed renewing. The stair lights needed replacing and the carpets cleaning. The outdated pagers were to be replaced with radio links and painting was to be carried out in-house.

The website was to be up graded to comply with new regulations.

The budget was above the projected target however admission prices will increase with inflation in April.

Cllr. Cutts was thanked for his report.

7. Accounts and Finance.

The following accounts had been previously circulated to Members and it was **RESOLVED** to approve the following:

- a) The General Account to the sum of **£10,695.10**
- b) The Paramount Account to the sum of **£47,691.26**

Signed.....Mayor 18/02/13

Accounts and Finance continued

It was also **RESOLVED** following the recommendation of the Finance and General Purpose Committee that due to the inconsistency and unsatisfactory service from Sage and the fact that the Town Council is not receiving value for money to disband with the Sage system and replace it with RBS Software.

8. Resource Centre.

The **Town Clerk** reported that the centre was to upgrade its broadband

NOTED

9. Community Centre.

The **Town Clerk** reported that the community centre was operating efficiently with a slight increase in bookings, despite local competition and the economic climate.

NOTED

10. Town Hall.

Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960

Due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted it was resolved to exclude the public and press for this item and item 12

The **Town Clerk** confirmed that Barnsley MBC is still carrying out a comprehensive review of community buildings and would await the deliberations of their investigations. A recent rumor that the town hall was to close was not true however **Cllr. Starling** stated that it was intended in the near future to relocate the social services staff to the library and this may have an effect on the future of the building.

NOTED

11. Community Led Plan.

Cllr. Webber in the absence of **Cllr. Millner** reported that the various groups were to meet regarding the final draft and that it was envisaged the plan would be completed by April.

A graphic designer and the camera club were now involved and the **Town Clerk** had contacted Ordnance Survey and had applied and permission had been granted to use maps.

NOTED

12. Public Toilets.

The **Town Clerk** stated that a resolution was required on record that the Town Council was to consider adopting the toilets, taking over the responsibility and future financial commitment as this had not yet been carried out.

Following a brief discussion it was **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the building from Barnsley M.B.C.

Cllr. Marsh also alluded to the recent meeting with the **Town Clerk, Cllr. Webber** and an officer from Norfolk Property Services which discussed the likelihood of the Town Council adopting the building from Barnsley M.B.C.

The officer in the interim period was to draft an asset transfer agreement to begin the process.

Signed.....Mayor 18/02/13

13. National School.

The **Town Clerk** informed members at a recent meeting with **Cllrs. Marsh and Webber** and an officer from Norfolk Property Services on another matter, it appeared Barnsley M.B.C. still had issues with the access, and appeared to be hesitant in drawing a conclusion to the matter. Following a lengthy discussion the officer who seemed unaware of the content of the license, agreed to investigate, and hopefully draw the license to a conclusion.

NOTED

14. Berrywell Avenue Allotments.

The **Town Clerk** stated that he had received correspondence from the Town Councils solicitor on the local authority and coal mining searches.

Both searches were satisfactory mean while, **Cllr. Marsh** had produced an action plan as such:

The site would be cleared of the scrub trees,

The site would be rotavated.

The site would be leveled and ploughed

Quotes had been obtained for water, fencing and security and it was envisaged the garage would be erected before summer.

A meeting with the allotment society had been arranged for February 11th

NOTED

15. Penistone Grammar School Foundation Governor.

Due to the expiry of **Cllr. Pilkington's** term of office as governor and his desire not to continue, a vacancy had arisen on the board.

Following a brief discussion it was **RESOLVED Cllr. Marsh** would be the Town Councils nominated representative.

16. Date and Time of the next meeting.

February 18th 2013 in the Council Chamber Town Hall at 7.0pm

Signed.....Mayor 18/02/13

