

PENISTONE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Town Council Meeting held on Monday
December 17th 2012 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Penistone.**

Present: The Town Mayor Cllr. Barron, in the Chair, Cllrs. Cutts, Hinchliff, Mrs. Hinchliff, Marsh, Millner, Pilkington, Mrs. Rusby, Starling, Unsworth, 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. Chapman, Green, Hand – Davis and Mrs. Webber.

RESOLVED the apologies are recorded.

2. Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interest.

The **Town Mayor** invited declarations of which Cllr. Unsworth declared an interest in item 7c (request for financial assistance from Fairtrade in Penistone)

RESOLVED that the declaration is recorded

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 November 19th 2012
- b) The Planning Committee held on November 19th 2012

4. Reports from Elected Members of Barnsley M.B.C.

Cllrs. Starling, Millner and Mrs. Rusby all commented that this was a quiet period in the council diary and had no relevant reports for the period.

However **Cllr. Webber** gave a report on the Yorkshire Water activities at Bridge End, stating that the three ways temporary lights were to be removed imminently being replaced by two way lights for an eight to ten week period further along Manchester Rd.

NOTED

5. Correspondence.

The following items of correspondence were **NOTED**

a) Barnsley M.B.C. Notification of the proposed changes to town and parish precepts. The Town Clerk explained that following recent notification from Central Government in relation to changes in Local Authority Council Tax legislation all town and parish councils were advised to consider the changes prior to setting the parish precepts for 2013/14.

The 2010 Local Government Spending Review announced that from April 1st 2013 the current Council Tax Benefits System would be abolished to be replaced with a Local Council Tax Support Scheme. The new scheme will have the effect of reducing the Council Tax Base (the basis on which council tax is set for each property) Funding for the new scheme is to be allocated to Billing Authorities which will have the effect of reducing the Council Tax Requirement. This funding will also include an element that is attributable to Local Precepting Authorities.

Signed.....Mayor 28/01/13

Correspondence Continued.

The **Town Clerk** informed members that he was to attend with the **Finance Officer** a meeting organised by Barnsley MBC on January 11th where at the meeting discussions will take place with regard to the tax base for our parish area, with any amount of Council Tax Support Grant allocated.

The new guidance will impact on the Band D charge for our parish area regardless of the parish precept, and that town and parish councils should not set their precepts until after this meeting.

NOTED.

b) Penistone Post Office.

Proposals were in place to relocate the post office to new premises and modernise the branch, subject to the sub postmaster's agreement. The new premises would be at 17- 19 Market Street. A six week public consultation was to be carried out to ascertain residents' views before any plans are finalised ending on the 28th January.

A brief discussion ensued with the main concern relating to parking issues.

c) Penistone Video and Stills Group – Thank You letter for the grant and how the funding had been allocated.

6. Leisure and Amenities Report.

Cllr. Cutts reported on the following:

Programme Skyfall sold 2400 tickets, not quite the record of 2900 for the Kings Speech, but a great result playing to full houses the programme of films carried through to mid February 2013 will include Great Expectations, Muppet Christmas Carol, and Rise of the Guardians, Nativity Danger and The Hobbit.

The pantomime is selling well as there are no live shows until the end of January.

Organ Trust Dates have been agreed with the Organ Trust through 2013, the December show is sold out.

Building. Repairs to the two smoke doors in the roof above the stage are ongoing with Norfolk Property Services disagreeing over the cause of the damp penetration.

Cllr. Cutts wished to thank the management and staff at the Paramount, the Town Clerk and office staff for their hard work over the last year, but in particular to the Community Centre staff who appear to deal with a wide range of issues and problems associated with an ageing building, the Christmas lights and decorations and the many other tasks they endure on a daily basis.

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 **£13,381.01**

b) The Paramount Account to the sum of **£38,064.72**

c) The following request for financial assistance was considered and it was **RESOLVED** to grant:

Fairtrade in Penistone £33.00 the money to be allocated from the section 137 budget

8. Resource Centre.

The **Town Clerk** reported that there had been a problem with the central heating boiler which required a plumber and had now been rectified.

NOTED

Signed.....Mayor 28/01/13

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.

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.

NOTED

11. Community Led Plan.

Cllr. Millner stated that he had been slightly disappointed with the lack of support from members, and the fact that assistance was required in future in completing the plan. Following the last meeting volunteers had offered to work on various sections and it appeared the completed document would now be finalised in April and would be available on the website.

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.

AGREED this would be an agenda item for the meeting in January.

Cllr. Mrs. Rusby commented that it would be good practice to acquire a breakdown of the actual annual, individual, expenditure of maintenance costs from Barnsley M.B.C. in the interim period.

AGREED Cllr. Millner/Town Clerk would expedite.

13. National School.

The **Town Clerk** informed members that a meeting of the National School Trustees had been arranged in the New Year, and the license would be discussed at this meeting.

NOTED

14. Berrywell Avenue Allotments.

The **Town Clerk** stated that he had received correspondence from the Town Councils solicitor on the environmental and chancel repair searches.

The environmental search was satisfactory however, as the site is located within the historical boundary of a tithe district, within a parish, the site may have a potential chancel repair liability.

The solicitor was to obtain quotations for insurance against this risk for approval.

Meanwhile **Cllr. Marsh** had been on site with a local contractor to obtain a quote for site clearance. An indicative cost for fencing the site would be available by the end of January.

NOTED

15. Christmas Carol Concert.

Cllr. Webber commented that the event had been successful, and expressed his thanks to **Cllr. Cutts, Chris Bradbury Penistone F.M.** and the **Round Table**, and wished the carol concert to be an annual event in the market building.

Signed.....Mayor 28/01/13

Christmas Carol Concert continued

The market traders were pleased with the response from residents (estimated at 4,000) visiting the market throughout the day with positive feedback.

Thanks were expressed to **Cllr. Webber**

NOTED.

16. Grindavik Visit.

The **Town Clerk** read out correspondence from the secretary of the Penistone Grindavik Society thanking the Town Council for the help and support toward the recent visit of the twin town friends from Grindavik in Iceland.

The purpose of the visit was to celebrate 25 years since the towns twinned and the twinning of the libraries in Penistone and Grindavik was the first library twinning in Great Britain. There was also a live SKYPE link between Grindavik School and St. John's School.

NOTED.

17. High Sherriff of South Yorkshire.

Cllr. Mrs. Hinchliff stated that at a recent visit to the Barnsley Hospice, the High Sherriff of South Yorkshire had expressed an interest in attending a future meeting of the Town Council to introduce herself and speak about the work the High Sherriff carries out during their term of office.

RESOLVED the **Town Clerk** invites the officer to a future meeting.

18. Internal Audit Report.

The **Town Clerk** reported on the first internal audit visit for the year ending March 2013. The appropriate tests and checks have been carried out on the financial systems and the relevant internal controls at this stage of the audit in accordance with the internal audit plan. The checks confirmed they are operating as expected with no matters to give cause for concern. Matters raised in the previous report for 2011/12 have been considered by the Council and action taken.

Comments on the Financial Regulation, Terms of Hire and the Community Equipment Bank were to be investigated and instigated by the **Town Clerk** and **Financial Officer**.

NOTED.

19. Financial Regulations.

The revised Financial Regulations in accordance with the Internal Auditor's recommendations were approved without amendment.

RESOLVED

20. Penistone Archives.

The **Town Clerk** informed members that the office often receives requests from members of the public wishing to view the archives which are at this present time in the office of E.P.I.P (East Peak Innovative Partnership) and asked the Council to consider making space available in a room in the Community Centre where viewing could take place at leisure within office hours and within easy access. Following a brief discussion it was agreed the request be acceded to.

21. Date and Time of the next meeting.

January 21st 2013 in the Council Chamber Town Hall at 7.0pm

Signed.....Mayor 28/01/13