



Penrith Town Council

Unit 1, Church House, 19-24 Friargate, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 7XR

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DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of

PENRITH TOWN COUNCIL

Held on **Monday 25 November 2019**, at 6.00 p.m. Unit 2, Church House, 19-24 Friargate, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 7XR.

PRESENT

Cllr. Burgin	South Ward	Cllr. Kenyon	North Ward
Cllr. Clark	South Ward	Cllr. Knaggs	West Ward
Cllr. Davies	West Ward	Cllr. Shepherd	East Ward
Cllr. Donald	North Ward	Cllr. Snell	West Ward
Cllr. Fallows	East Ward		
Cllr. Hawkins	East Ward		
Cllr. Jackson	North Ward		

Town Clerk
Deputy Town Clerk
Services & Contracts Manager

**DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF
FULL COUNCIL
25 NOVEMBER 2019**

PART I

PTC19/79 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Cllrs/ Bowen, Clarke and Lawson.

PTC19/80 MINUTES

Members considered the draft minutes and requested that two headings be amended prior to authorising the Chair to sign the minutes as follows:

PTC19/63: Amending Climate Change Action Plan to Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan.

PTC19/74: Amending Cultural Strategy to Arts and Cultural Strategy.

RESOLVED THAT

That the Chair sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Monday 23 September 2019 and the amendments to the headings.

PTC19/81 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members noted that there were no questions or representations that had been received from members of the public prior to the meeting.

PTC19/82 REPRESENTATIONS FROM OTHER AUTHORITIES

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS:

Members noted that District Cllr. Holden had sent apologies.

District Cllr. Clark informed the meeting that at the recent District Council's Housing and Communities Committee, the Police gave a presentation on traffic related anti-social behaviour and their actions to date.

District Council Leader Cllr. Taylor informed the meeting that the District Council had adopted their Council Plan.

COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

Members noted that County Cllrs. Bell and Carrick had sent their apologies.

Cllr. Whipp informed the meeting of the partnership working that has facilitated the development of the Parking and Movement Study, that the County Council was working hard to strengthen this joint approach and that by attending each authority's respective meetings assisted information sharing and further collaboration.

PTC19/83 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Members noted that no declarations of interests or requests for dispensations by Members in respect of items on the agenda were received prior to the meeting.

PTC19/84 EXCLUDED ITEM: PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 – REVIEW OF CO-OPTION APPLICATIONS

Members confirmed that matter 11 should be considered without the presence of the press and public, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Section 2 as the matter involved exempt information of a legal context, if Members choose to review the co-optees applications.

PTC19/85 RESOLUTIONS REPORT

Members noted the Resolutions Report.

PTC19/86 CHAIRS REPORT

Members noted the Chairs Report.

PTC19/87 MEMBERS REPORTS

Members received oral reports from Councillors regarding meetings they have attended as representatives of the Town Council.

Cllr. Davies attended the Omega Proteins Liaison Group Meeting on 22 October and asked that the meeting notes be appended to the minutes of the meeting. Cllr. Davies also attended a site visit to Omega Proteins and would be attending the Youth Advisory Panel launch on 30 November. Cllr. Davies had attended the Cumbria Association of Local Councils Annual General Meeting and had been elected on to their executive.

Cllrs Davies and Snell attended the Ullswater Community College Prize Giving.

Cllr. Snell had attended the Eden District Council Planning Committee meeting and would also be attending the Youth Advisory Panel launch on 30 November.

Cllr. Fallows informed the meeting that along with Cllr. Bowen he had attended the Cumbria Development Education Centre for a film screening about the experiences of Syrian refugees.

PTC19/88 CO-OPTION POLICY

Members considered the amended Co-option Policy.

RESOLVED THAT

The policy be approved.

PTC19/89 CO-OPTION TO NORTH WARD

Members considered two applications for co-option to Penrith North Ward.

The co-optee was invited to make representation to the meeting. Members requested to ask questions from the application form and the meeting moved in to Part Two, and the press and public were asked to leave the meeting. After the closed session, the press and public returned and voting took place by paper ballot.

RESOLVED THAT

Cllr. Michael Shepherd be co-opted to Penrith North Ward and assume his position in the meeting, having signed the declaration of office.

PTC19/90 DEVOLUTION

Members noted the progress of devolution and that the Council was discussing with Eden District Council what its plans are for the development of Castle Park.

RESOLVED THAT

- i. In principle approval for grass cutting to be transferred to the Council from 01 April 2022, with the caveat that the outcome of Eden District Council's desk top research exercise be completed in 2020.
- ii. A budget of £1500 for independent Play Area Inspection reports from the Devolved Services budget which will be commissioned by Eden District Council in 2020.
- iii. The play area at Bowscar be transferred to the Council along with the other play areas contained within this report.
- iv. A budget of £1200 from the Devolved Services budget, to meet the shared costs of the installation of step counters and accompanying software at Blue Bell and Sandgate toilets for a period of 3 months, which will be commissioned by Eden District Council in 2020, with the caveat that a quotation be sought for a survey period longer than 3 months. If the value of the quotation is by no more than 25% or £300 the Services and Contracts Manager can proceed.
- v. In principle approval for the transfer of the District Council flower beds.

PTC19/91 PARKING AND MOVEMENT STUDY

Members received an oral report from Cllr. Jackson.

PTC19/92 OFFICE LEASE RENEWAL

Members considered the written report and approved the recommendations contained within.

RESOLVED THAT

The matter be deferred to seek further advice from the Council's solicitor regarding break clauses.

PTC19/93 MOTION FROM CLLR. KENYON - PENRITH ALLEYWAYS

Members considered the motion and approved the recommendations contained within the supporting report.

RESOLVED THAT

- i. Insert in the Council's Business Plan at priority 21:

"Work with other partners and authorities to improve, and maintain access alleyways in the Town Centre"

to enable this priority to go forward with other similar schemes of work in the Council Business Plan, to the Town Working Group for their further consideration.

- ii. Allocate £5,000 via a virement from underspending in Town Projects, to research the ownership and condition of the alleyways and report TO CCEG Committee any recommendations regarding the feasibility to carry out remedial work, long-term maintenance and ownership of the alleyways, noting that this scheme of work may have to be contracted out to specialist contractor.

PTC19/94 MOTION FROM CLLR. DONALD

Members considered the following motion from Councillor Donald:

Penrith Town Council notes that tackling discrimination is a key part of our vision and commitment, to both Penrith and society in general. This should have no exemptions. Penrith Town Council and its partners should try to be more careful in what we say, with renewed attention to disability and psychological health.

Disability and mental health discrimination are no less important or included in statutory measures, but there are frequent examples of less effort and less respect in delivering non-discriminatory outcomes for disabled people, specifically around the use of language. No evidence is needed here: it is encountered in the street, at work, on television, even in Parliament and in local council meetings.

Words such as mad, crazy, nutty and bonkers are regularly used in public and private arenas to denote negative and pejorative situations or behaviour. They are used - amongst other things - to describe failure, stupidity, instability and recklessness, instead of through existing adjectives which adequately describe the same.

Likewise, the words lame, crippled and deformed, are often used to describe appearance or infrastructure (such as the economy). Many more examples of benign slurs, in regular usage, go unquestioned and unchecked.

The likening of failure, stupidity, instability or recklessness to experiences of negative mental health or psychological distress, or of any form of impairment, is ultimately counterproductive. It distracts from the individuality of a person's experience; and with the capacity we need to identify ourselves with someone else's experience of difference and adversity.

It is surely preferable to think in terms of the straightforward meaning we intend, than short-cut to a thoughtless cliché. For example, rather than "I had a crazy day", we can refer to "an overwhelming day"; instead of "a mad suggestion", we can make "a ludicrous suggestion"; "a lame idea" is actually simply "a lousy idea"; and someone acting "bonkers" really means they are "stupid" or "irresponsible". The linguistic alternatives are endless and found in any good thesaurus.

Arguments are sometimes made that these words are not technically discriminatory, that they are more interesting in conversation and in such general usage as to be perfectly harmless. The same apologies were once made with regard to other protected characteristics. Though harm may not be intended, especially in most indirect and merely thoughtless circumstances, we consider that harm is, indirectly, being done.

Careless language undermines the integrity with which we openly seek to champion and respect diversity and achieve parity of esteem. It implies a correlation of dysfunction - where there is none.

It is also, potentially, offensive.

The same disrespect for gender, race and sexuality, is still, unfortunately, possible but we now rightly defend and protect those experiences and identities from carelessness and attack. Choices are being made, and attention needs to be brought to these choices of terminology.

The linguist Benjamin Whorf described a principle of linguistic relativity, which shapes our perceptions, and ultimately attitudes and behaviours. Language can help create and control the different worlds and spaces in which we live and participate. We can therefore seek to address and redress this, where appropriate. In disability legislation this is known as reasonable adjustment.

Penrith Town Council believes that a reasonable adjustment should be made when using language. We should avoid unnecessary correlations between protected characteristics and descriptions of negative perception. As far as disability and particularly mental health are concerned, we recognise that the use of colloquial language is at an earlier and ongoing stage of change and progress. There is no expectation here of recrimination or punitive measures: simply a reminder that that we move towards a greater understanding of and commitment to the language we use.

RESOLVED THAT

The motion be approved.

PTC19/95 COUNCIL BUSINESS PLAN

Members noted the written report and approved the recommendations contained within.

RESOLVED THAT

The Council Plan be approved with the amendments as listed in the consultation feedback report as follows:

- a) Section 12 – New – Agenda Matter 16
- b) Section 13 - Updated
- c) Section 14 – Health and Wellbeing – priorities banner amended from:
“Reduce Waste” to
“Support projects that reduce waste, emissions and address climate change”
- d) 21 – New – Penrith alleyways Agenda Matter 15
- e) 37 – Deleted

PTC19/96 MATTERS FROM COMMUNITY, CULTURE AND ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

Members considered the report and approved the recommendations from the Council’s Community, Culture and Economic Growth Committee, contained within.

RESOLVED THAT

- i. A budget allocation of £9,5000 from reserves to support community and youth engagement for the remainder of this financial year, be ratified.
- ii. Delegated authority be given to the Community Engagement Officer for expenditure for works associated with community engagement up to a value of £10,000.

PTC19/96 CONTINUED

- iii. The 2019/20 budgetary allocation for the arts and culture strategy be increased by £5,000 to £10,000 by virement from the Greening budget, as recommended by the Council's Responsible Finance Officer, be ratified.
- iv. Delegated authority be given to the Economic Development Officer for expenditure for works associated with the arts and culture strategy up to a value of £10,000.ptc19/97 Matters from Finance Committee

PTC19/97 MATTERS FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE

a) BUDGETARY CONTROL STATEMENT 2019 EXPENDITURE TO MONTH END 30 SEPTEMBER 2019

Members were asked to ratify the Budgetary Control Statement 2019 Expenditure to month end 30 September 2019, the six-month balance report as approved by Council's Finance Committee. Members noted that the budgetary control statement showed that overall spending to the end of September had been contained within the profiled budget; the substantial underspendings are expected to level out as the year progresses. Members noted that there were no significant concerns about overspends and no issues arising from the Council's balance sheet at 30 September.

RESOLVED THAT

The Budgetary Control Statement 2019 Expenditure to month end 30 September 2019 be ratified.

b) FAIRHILL SIGNATURE PROJECTS FUND

Members were asked to ratify delegated authority as approved by Finance Committee for Councillors Bowen and Burgin to agree the award of contract for the Fairhill Signature Projects Fund, Play Area Extension.

RESOLVED THAT

Delegated authority as approved by Finance Committee for Councillors Bowen and Burgin to agree the award of contract for the Fairhill Signature Projects Fund, Play Area Extension, be ratified.

PTC19/98 RURAL MARKET TOWNS GROUP

Members considered the correspondence from the Rural Services Network to join the Rural Market Towns Group.

RESOLVED THAT

The Council join the Rural Market Towns Group which will include an annual subscription fee.

PTC19/99 NEXT MEETING

Members noted the next meeting was scheduled for 27 January 2020 at 6.00pm, Unit 2, Church House, 19-24 Friargate, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 7XR.

CHAIR:

DATE:

**FOR THE ATTENTION OF ALL MEMBERS OF
THE TOWN COUNCIL**

APPENDED MEETING NOTES REF: PTC19/87

Omega Proteins Ltd Liaison Group – Note of Meeting, Tues 22nd Oct 2019

Attendees:

For Omega Proteins (OPL) – Group Technical Manager, General Manager, PR Manager
Residents/ Councillors / Town Council: K.Harper, A.Lloyd / M.Eyles / J.Davies

Apologies:

S.Austwick, V.Taylor, J.Thompson

Matters Arising

The Group considered the posting of a meeting note on the web site as an alternative to be sent to individual group members.

Audits

The HSEQ (Health & Safety, Environmental and Quality) system is up and running and passed the first audit in August this year.

Audits from Odournet (an independent odour expert) are continuing, with the next one due this month - focusing on incorporating the site changes into the Odour Management Plans.

Visits

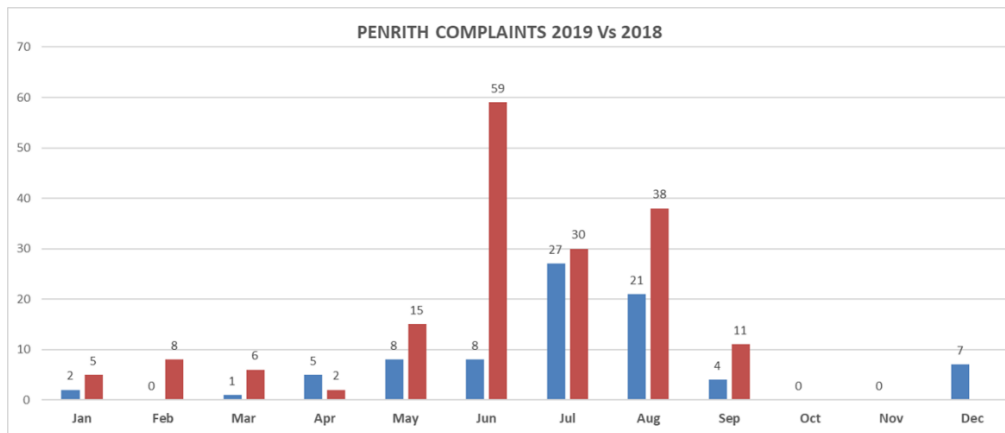
The local MP Rory Stewart paid a visit to the site in August and was shown the new developments. The Company will be making the same invitation to the new MP when they take up their role.

A visit by Penrith BID has been postponed to November due to difficulties in agreeing a date. The visit was offered following a meeting with the CEO of the Company and representatives of the BID group as they were keen to find out more about the operations at the site.

The group discussed further options for visits and it was agreed to offer a further site tour for residents and councillors before the next meeting.

Complaint Figures

The complaint figures were viewed for 2019 to date and compared to the previous year. The graph shows figures up to the end of September.



A reduction of complaints has been seen in recent months. Other odour sources have also been identified in the area which have caused confusion.

To reduce the potential for fugitive emissions a lot of work is being done on monitoring building integrity, even small gaps can make a difference. There have been no further issues with the oxidisers or power cuts.

The group discussed the availability of information on the web site. As this is being updated, there is the possibility of a survey with members to get their views on what information would be good to see.

Site Development Update



The trailer shed is almost complete and the end wall will be going up this week.



Work continues with the new oxidiser. It was also discussed that this will improve the energy consumption on site by burning biomass instead of fossil fuels (reducing carbon emissions) and by generating electricity via a steam turbine.

The company will be happy to supply further information about changes to the site and future plans.

AOB

Local News - the business presentation by EDC about their plans for Carbon Zero and Sustainability was attended recently. This is an interesting project and it is useful for businesses to be involved, they can also offer advice on areas such as energy saving – this is something that is very important to sites such as this.

Community Fund – the company plans for rolling out their Community Fund to the Penrith area was discussed. This has been very popular in the Halifax area and has assisted local charities with a number of projects.

Information is to go in local press and members gave their view on the most useful publications to use and made some suggestions for local recipients.

Other Activity – Recent Facebook activity concerning references to the Penrith Pong were considered as being detrimental to the community and may be having an economic impact. A communication plan including press releases about site improvements was discussed. It was also considered that an open meeting to explain site operations should be held, similar to previous events held in the local library.

Landscaping – Comments have been made on the appearance of the ‘building site’ from Greystoke Rd. It was explained that there was a landscaping plan in place, including trees, but there was some delay because of some electricity cables that need to be moved by Electricity North West.

Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled for the end of February 2020. Suggested dates will be circulated approximately two - three weeks prior to the event.

For further information contact janebrindle@leogroupltd.co.uk

Local Councillors can be contacted as per the details on www.eden.gov.uk or www.penrithtowncouncil.co.uk