



# Penrith Town Council

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

# 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 sign 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 had facilitated the development of the Penrith Parking and Movement Study, and suggested that by attending each authority's respective meetings this would further enhance partnership working and would assist information sharing and further collaboration between the authorities.

#### 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 had 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, in the presence of the Town Clerk

## **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 be allocated 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 be allocated 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 youth and community 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 youth and 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**