

196. SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS – ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

The Town Clerk advised that he had been elected National President of the Society of Local Council Clerks.

RESOLVED that the Town Council's congratulations be recorded to the Clerk on such an achievement.

ma@actionjet

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2007

PRESENT: COUN. T JONES (CHAIR)

Mesdames: L Wood, J I Measor, M Milsom, J Scott

Messrs: R Kyle, W M Jeffrey, J Hardy, R Curtis,
D Langan, C J Metcalfe, R Huitson,
D Milsom, R Jones,
E W Hall and C Austin

MEMBERS WERE REMINDED OF THE NEED TO DISCLOSE ANY INTEREST PREJUDICIAL OR PERSONAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT.

PRIOR TO THE MEETING, A 15 MINUTE "OPEN SESSION" WAS HELD TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUT QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL.

146. NOISE AND NUISANCE FROM MOTOR VEHICLES & MOTORCYCLES

The Chairman welcomed Mr Wilson of 101 Christchurch Place, Peterlee who had asked to come along to the meeting to ask, on behalf of his neighbours and himself, for the Town Council's help with the issue of noise and nuisance being suffered because of noisy exhausts at all times of the day and night.

The Leader of the Council thanked Mr Wilson for his interest in coming along to the Council Meeting explaining that this public participation and feedback was welcomed and encouraged by the Town Council. He assured that the Town Council would give Mr Wilson and his neighbours their support in any way it could, firstly by bringing this matter up with the Police during the next item of the meeting.

M J Jones

RESOLVED that the Town Council pursue the matter of noisy exhausts with the Police and liaise with Mr Wilson on progress.

147. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were given on behalf of Councillors M A Cartwright, J Alvey, H Bennett MBE, C Robbins, B Scott and G Cowie.

148. POLICE UPDATE

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Paul Harrison and Sgt Steve Hawkes to the meeting. Inspector Harrison gave an update on crime figures for the first six months in the Town and how these figures affected the people of Peterlee. He was extremely pleased with the statistics which showed a considerable drop in reported crime against last year's figures.

Inspector Harrison asked if he and his Officers were concentrating on the right areas and asked for the Member's feedback. Several issues were raised including:- response to telephone calls made to the Police; anti social behaviour in Acre Rigg and speeding on Durham Way. These would be taken note of by the Police.

A Local Member asked if the Police had any details on activity over the previous weekend which involved the helicopter response at Eden Lane. The Police said that they would look into this and report back.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted, and a letter of congratulations be forwarded to the Chief Constable.

149. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed, subject to Councillor Cartwright not being recorded as submitting her apologies as she had Chaired the meeting.

In connection with Minute Number 132 – Use of Candles, Shotton Hall Banqueting Suites it was **RESOLVED that the Council Policy be amended so that the use of all candles were**

M A J

prohibited for Shotton Hall Banqueting Suite Functions other than on birthday cakes.

150. THE MINUTES OF THE MAYORS COMMITTEE OF THE 17TH SEPTEMBER, 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to Member, were agreed.

151. THE MINUTES OF THE SHOW COMMITTEE OF THE 27TH SEPTEMBER, 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

152. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE OF THE 28TH SEPTEMBER 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

153. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 1ST OCTOBER 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

Matters Arising

(i) Minute Number 70 – National Association of Councillors, it was **RESOLVED** where the Conference has a 3 for 2 “offer” the Council’s representative on the Executive Committee, Councillor Measor, be given authority to attend the full conference. If the meeting was out of the region and did not have this offer then the Conference be attended by two Members from the rota and the Executive Member be given authority to attend the Executive Meeting only.

154. THE REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE 3RD SEPTEMBER 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed subject to Minute Number 18 Planning Application for 2 No Wind Turbines, Edder Acres Farm including the following “it was noted that Councillor Huitson felt that Councillor Hall had conducted himself in a bullying manner towards him during the discussion”.

RESOLVED that this amendment be made.

155. THE REPORT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 1ST OCTOBER 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

156. THE REPORT OF THE CLERK'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 10TH SEPTEMBER 2007 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

Matters Arising

(a) Minute Number 35 - X Factor Stadt Nordenham, **RESOLVED** that consideration of this matter be deferred to a future meeting.

(b) Minute Number 37 - How to be a Good Councillor, Training Sessions it was **RESOLVED** that any Member wishing to attend advise the Office so that a reservation could be made.

157. THE REPORT OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF THE 8TH OCTOBER 2007 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed, subject to Councillor R Jones' apologies being recorded, and Councillor Cartwright being shown as in attendance.

158. THE REPORT OF THE INFORMATION CENTRE COMMITTEE OF THE 8TH OCTOBER 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed subject to Councillor R Jones' apologies being recorded.

159. STOCKTAKE SUMMARY SHEET, SHOTTON HALL BANQUETING SUITES & PETERLEE FOOTBALL CLUB - PERIOD UP TO 10TH OCTOBER 2007

Consideration was given to the Stocktaker's Reports for the period up to 10TH October, 2007.

RESOLVED that these Stocktaker's Reports be received.

160. PLANNING APPLICATIONS



Details of the planning applications received were circulated to Members for their consideration.

RESOLVED that no comments or objections be made to any of the applications received.

161. DEFACEMENT BY GRAFFITTI – LAMP POSTS

Members were circulated with information relating to a programme of work to paint lampposts in the Peterlee Area to prevent defacement by graffiti. There had been some concern expressed that painting grey lampposts up to 2 meters high with black anti-graffiti paint left the posts looking unsightly and that they should be left as they are or painted to the top in black. This would greatly increase the cost and slow down the project. The District Council was therefore seeking the opinion of Local Councillors on whether the existing proposal to paint lampposts to 2 meters only was suitable.

RESOLVED that the District Council be advised that that the Town Council supported the existing proposal to paint lampposts to 2 meters only.

162. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS, "PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES, PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES" – DELEGATE'S REPORT

Members were circulated with a copy of the delegate's report following his attendance at this conference on the Town Council's behalf.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

163. QUALITY PARISH & TOWN COUNCIL SCHEME

An update was given on proposed changes to the Quality Parish & Town Council Scheme.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.



164. PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR

Members were circulated with details of the formal consultation from the Audit Commission on the appointment of an external auditor. The current auditor's appointment ended with the completion of the audit of the accounts for 2007/08.

RESOLVED that the Town Council respond to this consultation advising that they would prefer to have the Audit Commission continue to carry out their Audit.

165. TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE ON NORTH PETERLEE PATHFINDER

RESOLVED that Councillor L Wood be nominated to replace Councillor M Milsom as the Town Council's representative on the North Peterlee Pathfinder.

166. PROVISION OF RIDES AT BONFIRE EVENT

Consideration was given as to whether rides should be provided at this year's bonfire event.

RESOLVED that no rides be booked for the Fireworks/Bonfire Event.

167. LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader gave his report which included the following matters:-

- Civic Protocol

The Leader, after discussions at Conference, suggested that as done in many other authorities, in future the Civic Chain should be worn by the Chair when presiding over the Council Meeting.

RESOLVED that the Council adopt a policy that the Chain of Office should be worn by the Mayor/Deputy Mayor when presiding at the Council Meeting.

- Civic ties/cravats

It was suggested that an up to date collection of civic ties and ladies gifts be sourced.

RESOLVED that this course of action be followed.

Handwritten initials: MPJ

- Cars parking on the pavement

This matter had been included in the most recent issue of the County Council's newsletter and the Leader felt it should be referred to the next Central Area Forum meeting for discussion.

RESOLVED that this course of action be followed.

- Carbon footprint

Whilst on Conference recently the Leader had been speaking to other Councils on their approach to reducing their carbon footprints and being more environmentally friendly. The Deputy Town Clerk advised that paper was recycled as were ink cartridges from printers and low energy light bulbs were used in the Council's buildings. She assured that every effort would be made to continue to recycle etc.

- Re-election to the Executive Committee of the Larger Local Councils

The Leader was proud to advise that he had been re-elected to the Executive Committee of the Larger Local Councils.

- Resurrection of the Big Six

The Leader advised that with the forthcoming unitary re-organization the meetings of the six larger local councils in the North East were to be held once again.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

168. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS & PUBLIC

IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED, THE COMMITTEE PASSED THE FORMAL RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS & PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING, PURSUANT TO THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) ACT, 1961 & THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985.

169. THORNTREE GILL LEISURE GARDENS – PROVISION OF TOILET BLOCK – FEES

Consideration was given to details of Architect's fees provided for the provision of toilets at Thorntree Gill Allotment Site.

RESOLVED that Burns Architects be engaged to undertake the works as detailed at a cost of £850.00 +vat.

M J A S Owen