

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE

AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> JULY 2006

PRESENT: COUN R CURTIS (CHAIR)

Mesdames: M Milsom & M A Cartwright

Messrs: H Bennett, W M Jeffrey,  
T Jones, C J Metcalfe, E W Hall,  
G Calvert, B Scott & R Huitson

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

33. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors G Cowie, D Coates, R Jones, D Milsom, A E Laing, J I Measor, C Robbins & A Lowden.

34. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

(i) Minute Number 4 – Apollo Pavilion Consultancy, Members were circulated with a copy of a reply from the District of Easington confirming amounts spent on this scheme.

**RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.**

(ii) Minute Number 9 – Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management Seminar – Officer's Report, Members were

circulated with a copy of the Officer's report following his attendance at this Conference.

**RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.**

- (iii) Minute Number 31 – Site Investigation – Proposed Sports & Social Club, the Town Clerk gave further details on this matter and asked for approval to appoint Robinsons to carry out the site investigation work, at prices as detailed in the Architect's Summary, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

**RECOMMENDED that Robinsons be appointed to carry out the site investigations for the Helford Road development.**

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED that D.T.A. be approached to carry out structural, mechanical and electrical services as per item quotations.**

- (iv) NALC-Nominations for Larger Local Councils Committee 2007, it was confirmed that Councillor W M Jeffrey be nominated for electors to this Committee on behalf of the Town Council.

**RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.**

- (iv) Community Decline & Charter 88's Campaign For A Modern Democracy – Empowering Citizens and Local Councils, the Town Clerk advised that he had received confirmation from the Local MP, John Cummings that he has supported this Bill.

**RECOMMENDED that the Council give it's support to the Bill.**

- (vi) Eastfield/Thorntree Gill, Traffic Concerns, the Town Clerk had circulated the formal note of the meeting and advised that there was to be a further meeting to discuss this issue on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2006.

**RECOMMENDED that progress be awaited.**

35. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 3<sup>rd</sup> JULY 2006, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was adopted.

36. THE REPORT OF THE INTERNAL AUDIT PANEL held on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2006, was to be circulated for approval at the Council meeting.
37. THE NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PETERLEE YOUTH GROUP HELD ON 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2006 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were accepted.
38. APOLLO PAVILION STEERING GROUP, NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2006 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were accepted.
39. HERITAGE OPEN DAYS, APOLLO PAVILION ON 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006 – REQUEST TO USE PARKING FACILITIES

The Town Clerk asked for Member's consideration to a request made by the District of Easington to use the car park adjacent to the play area at Helford Road in conjunction with the Heritage Open Days.

During discussions, the Clerk asked for Member's approval also for Shotton Hall to participate in this Heritage Week by opening the building and grounds to the public. The only session that could be offered was the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2006, from 10.00am until 12.00noon.

**RECOMMENDED that approval be given for the car park to be used and for Shotton Hall to take part in this Heritage Event.**

40. PATHFINDER – COMBINED STRATEGIC & DELIVERY PLAN 2006-2009

Members were circulated with a copy of the above publication.

**RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted.**

41. CLIMATE CHANGE COMMUNITY STRATGEY

Members were circulated with a copy of correspondence from the District of Easington regarding the production of a Climate Change Community Strategy for the District of Easington.

**RECOMMENDED that the Town Council become involved in consultations for this Strategy by completing and returning the enclosed pro forma.**

42. PARTICIPATION ALLOWANCES

The Town Clerk advised that he had mentioned this matter to the Chief Executive of the District of Easington and she was not aware of the situation, she was, however, going to investigate it further.

**RECOMMENDED that progress be awaited.**

43. COUNTY DURHAM RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Town Clerk circulated a copy of correspondence received from Durham County Council advising that they were currently producing a Rights of Way Improvement Plan, (RoWIP).

Derek Burns of the Ramblers Association had been contacted to seek his opinions on this Plan and to see if he could suggest any areas that could be looked at. The Town Clerk advised that he could only suggest creating formal paths on some of the Town Council land, eg Lowhills Road, if finance ever became available. In discussions the access pathways into the Castle Eden Dene from Peterlee were discussed and the bad state of repair they were in because of the damage by heavy plant and machinery that were used by English Nature for maintenance etc. It was suggested that this report be forwarded to English Nature, Castle Eden Dene, for them to propose repairs to the public access to the Dene.

**RECOMMENDED that this course of action be followed.**

44. CONSULTATION DOCUMENT ON THE PROPOSAL TO BUILD ONE SECONDARY SCHOOL IN PETERLEE

Members had been circulated with a copy of the formal consultation document issued by Durham County Council setting out the four options available for the 11+ Education in Peterlee.

Following discussion, it was **RECOMMENDED that:-**

**(a) a sympathetic letter be sent to Denehouse School, explaining that the Town Council needs to keep it's options open and consider all documentation fully before making a decision on the document.**

**(b) a further letter be sent to DCC asking for an Officer to come to a future meeting of the Town Council to discuss and explain the options.**

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

46. REQUEST TO PURCHASE OR LEASE LAND AT EDEN HILL

**RECOMMENDED that this item be referred to a future meeting for discussion once a reply had been received from English Partnerships regarding the claw back arrangement.**

47. DURHAM COUNTY SCOUTS YEAR BOOK

The Town Clerk asked for approval to support this publication once again.

**RECOMMENDED that a ¼ page advert be placed at a cost of £79.00 +vat.**

48. HELFDOR ROAD TRAINING AREA

The Town Clerk gave Members details of an anticipated successful grant bid awarded for the Helford Road Training Area. He asked for approval for the Council to meet the possible shortfall in funding to achieve the scheme in the sum of around £12,000 - £17,000. These monies were included in last year's budget but had not been expended.

**RECOMMENDED that approval be given to this course of action and the Town Clerk advise Members of the exact amount required when he was able.**