

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 8TH JANUARY 2007

PRESENT: COUN R CURTIS (CHAIR)

Mesdames: J I Measor

Messrs: R Kyle, B Scott, D Coates, G
Calvert, A Geldard, B Joyce, T Jones,
H Bennett MBE, W M Jeffrey,
E W Hall & R Huitson

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

PRIOR TO THE START OF THE MEETING, THE CHAIRMAN WISHED EVERYONE A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

121. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors J Robbins, A E Laing, C J Metcalfe, M Milsom, G Cowie, M A Cartwright and R Jones.

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

Matters Arising

In connection with Minute Number 117 – Peterlee Cemetery Lighting/CCTV Scheme, the Town Clerk gave a progress report on

this scheme advising that the proposal was permitted development and therefore did not require planning permission. He was awaiting notification from the Church Authorities that they had no objection to the scheme.

The Town Clerk had also circulated a report on the tenders received for the electrical engineering services, and confirmed in accordance with authority previously granted, he had authorized acceptance of the lowest tender submitted.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

123. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 21ST DECEMBER 2006, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was adopted.

124. THE REPORT OF THE YOUTH GROUP HELD ON THE 11TH DECEMBER 2006, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was adopted.

125. THE REPORT OF THE APOLLO PAVILION WORKING GROUP HELD ON THE 1ST DECEMBER 2006, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was adopted. The Clerk confirmed that he had attended at an Officer level at this meeting.

126. BAESWEILER

(a) Invitation to Attend

(b) Notification of the Dates of Visits

RECOMMENDED that the Council's Policy of not taking up this invitation be re-confirmed, and the information given on the visits be noted.

127. POLICE ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

Members were circulated with a reply received from the Assistant

Chief Constable, Durham Constabulary, regarding the Police's attendance at meetings. Members felt that it was important that the Town Council and the Police had a strong working partnership and that the Council needed the Police's support in the work they do.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

128. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL - LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER – THE ROLE OF PARISH & TOWN COUNCILS

Members were advised that the Local Government White Paper published late October, invited local authorities in shire areas to make proposals for unitary local government or make proposals to pioneer, as pathfinders, new models of two tier working. The Town Clerk reported receipt of an invitation to attend a presentation at County Hall, Durham on Saturday 13th January 2007, by the County Council regarding their bid.

RECOMMENDED that the invitation be accepted and the Town Council be represented by the Leader, Town Clerk and Councillor Bennett at the meeting.

COUNCILLOR D MILSOM DECLARED AN INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM AND TOOK NO FURTHER PART IN THE DISCUSSION WHICH ENSUED.

129. DISTRICT OF EASINGTON – LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER, POINEERING AN INNOVATIVE TWO TIER MODEL FOR FUTURE LOCAL GOVERNANCE IN COUNTY DURHAM

The Town Clerk reported receipt of an invitation to attend a presentation by the District of Easington regarding their bid in relation to the above to be held on Wednesday 10th January 2007.

RECOMMENDED that the invitation be accepted and the Town Council be represented by the Leader, Town Clerk and Councillor Bennett at the meeting.

130. LOCAL COUNCILLOR'S BRIEFING

Members were circulated with a copy of the above bulletin which gave details on proposed legislation.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

131. STANDARDS BOARD – BULLETIN ISSUE 31

Members were circulated with a copy of the above bulletin.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

132. ADOPTING AN AREAS-BASED APPROACH IN THE AUDIT COMMISSION'S NORTH EAST TEAMS

Members were circulated with correspondence received from the Audit Commission outlining a series of changes in the way in which the Audit Commission teams in the North East were organized and an explanation as to why they were taking this action. The Council's new Auditor under these arrangements would be Mr J Dafter.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted.

133. 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

COUNCILLOR W M JEFFREY DECLARED AN INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM AND TOOK NO FURTHER PART IN THE DISCUSSION WHICH ENSUED.

134. DEVELOPMENT OF PETERLEE COLLEGE (TOWN CENTRE SITE)

Members were informed of receipt of a letter from the Senior Valuer at the District Council advising she was awaiting a reply from Northumbrian Water on this issue. Once a reply was received she would be able to advise further in respect of fees etc.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted and Members be kept advised on progress with this matter.

135. PETERLEE INFORMATION CENTRE - LANDLORDS NOTICE – APPLYING FOR RELEASE FROM LANDLORDS COVENANTS OF A TENANCY ON ASSIGNMENT

RECOMMENDED that the Council agree to release the current landlord from the Landlord's covenants of tenancy in relation to the Peterlee Information Centre, 4 Upper Yoden Way, Peterlee.

136. T MOBILE NO 1 LIMITED AND T MOBILE NO 5 LIMITED– (SOLVENT LIQUIDATION)

Members were given details of the above which was for notification purposes only with no action required in response to it.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

137. MEETING OF THE COUNCIL IN JANUARY 2007

RECOMMENDED that Standing Orders be waived in respect of the Council meeting in January to allow it to be held on the fourth Monday of the month. FURTHER RECOMMENDED that Standing Orders be amended to include for such requirements in the future.