

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 5TH MARCH 2007

PRESENT: COUN R CURTIS (CHAIR)

Mesdames: A E Laing, J I Measor & M A Cartwright

Messrs: B Scott, R Jones, B Joyce, H Bennett MBE, W M Jeffrey, E W Hall, R Kyle, C J Metcalfe, T Jones, D Milsom & D Coates

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

160. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Councillors G Cowie, G Calvert & M Milsom.

161. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Matters Arising

Minute Number 128 & 146 – Durham County Council Submission for Unitary Status – Progress

Members were circulated with a copy of a letter detailing the progress with the County Council's submission for unitary status.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted and further progress be awaited.

162. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 21ST FEBRUARY 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was adopted.

163. THE REPORT OF THE YOUTH GROUP HELD ON THE 12TH FEBRUARY 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was adopted.

164. NAC CONFERENCE, DELIVERING SAFER COMMUNITIES, YORK, 12TH – 14TH JANUARY 2007-DELEGATE'S REPORT

A copy of the delegate's report following their attendance at this conference had been circulated to each Member for their information.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

165. NALC SHAPING COMMUNITIES SEMINAR, LONDON – 13TH FEBRUARY 2007

A copy of the delegate's report following their attendance at this conference had been circulated to each Member for their information.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

166. FINANCIAL COMPARISON MONITOR 1ST APRIL 2006 – 31ST DECEMBER 2006

A copy of the Financial Comparison Monitor from 1st April up to the 31st December 2006 along with a financial summary had been circulated to each Member. The Town Clerk pointed out that the balance at bank was £810,465.92 with actual total net expenditure of £1,135,214.87 against a budgeted net expenditure of £1,249,906.00.

The Town Clerk made particular reference to the Helford Road

Scheme. A Local Member asked that all interested parties be kept informed of progress with this project and the Town Clerk gave assurances that this would be done.

RECOMMENDED that the report be accepted.

167. PETERLEE MASTERPLAN – FINAL DRAFT

Members were circulated with a copy of the final draft of the Peterlee Masterplan.

RECOMMENDED that the report be received and adopted.

168. ELECTION COSTS

Members were circulated with a copy of correspondence received from NALC regarding election costs advising that this issue was one which NALC understood was still being considered by Central Government.

RECOMMENDED that progress be awaited.

169. REVIEW OF THE QUALITY TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL SCHEME

Members were circulated with an update on the arrangements for this scheme.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

170. DURHAM ASSOCIATION NEWS – ISSUE 11, FEBRUARY 2007

Members were advised of receipt of the above publication.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

171. REVIEW OF HEALTH SERVICES NORTH & SOUTH OF THE TEES – DARZI REVIEW

Members were circulated with an extract from minutes of the District of Easington regarding their interview with an Independent Reconfiguration Panel at the University Hospital of North Tees. The IRP asked for views on the safety of splitting child trauma from child medical issues. The IRP had to submit their report to the Secretary of State before the 18th December 2006.

The Town Clerk also drew to Member's attention that the question of public transport had been raised again.

RECOMMENDED that further developments be awaited.

172. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES BILL PASSES 2ND READING

Members gave consideration to details received in connection with the above. It was suggested that before the Council respond, the Clerk speak to Mr John Cummings MP to confirm the stance he was taking with this issue.

RECOMMENDED that this course of action be followed.

173. NALC – ARTICLE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF LOCAL COUNCIL REVIEW

The Town Clerk advised he had been approached by NALC enquiring if the Council would be interested in contributing a piece on regeneration to the next issue of the Local Council Review, (the official magazine of the National Association of Local Councils).

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk be given approval to contribute to the next issue of LCR.

174. REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES

A copy of the proposed fees and charges effective from 1st April 2007 was circulated to each Member for consideration. The fees had been increased by inflation only. During consideration, the Town Clerk asked should the use and hire of the multi use system, which was currently given free of charge, be charged for. It was suggested that the Estate Manager monitor and review the use and requests made and make recommendations regarding charging to a future meeting.

RECOMMENDED that this course of action be followed and the fees and charges as listed, be approved:

PETERLEE CEMETERY

<u>EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS</u>	£	£
9' x 5' Grave Space (10 Years+)	109.00	-
4.05' x 5' space (Stillborn - 10 Years)	56.00	-
2' x 2' Cremated Remains Space	43.00	-

INTERMENT FEES (Shall be double for non-residents of Peterlee)

Single 9' x 5' Grave Space (10 Years+)	109.00 (218.00)	164.00 (325.00)
Double 9' x 5' Grave Space (10 Years+)	165.00 (330.00)	247.00 (494.00)
4.05' x 5' Grave Space (Stillborn - 10 Years)	76.00 (152.00)	114.00 (228.00)
Ashes	37.00 (74.00)	56.00 (112.00)

OTHER CHARGES

Erection of Headstone/ Vase/ Memorial Plaque	38.00
Purchase of Base Stone (for 2' x 2' space)	23.00
Additional Inscription	23.00
Sanctum 2 Blocks	61.00
Grave Planting for 1 Year	33.00

SPORTS LETTING FEES AND CHARGES 2007 / 2008

SUBJECT	PROPOSED CHARGE
(*Teams from outside Peterlee)	

FOOTBALL & RUGBY (Including pitch, changing rooms and Attendants Duties)

Seasonal Use of Football / Rugby Pitch (League & Cup Games)

Senior Teams	£140.00 VAT Exempt + £25 deposit £210.00 + £25 deposit
Junior Teams	£ 54.00 VAT Exempt + £25 deposit £ 81.00 + £25 deposit

Pre Season Friendlies for above lettings (per game) £ 25.00 inc VAT
£ 37.50 inc VAT

Casual Matches / Lettings £ 25.00 inc VAT
£ 37.50 inc VAT

Peterlee Newtown FC (Seasonal Fee) £452.00 (VAT Exempt)
Pre Season Friendlies (Peterlee Newtown) £ 25.00 inc VAT

Casual Matches / Lettings (Newtown Ground) £ 65.00 inc VAT
(Floodlights arranged £ 97.50 through football club)

CRICKET (Including pitch & changing rooms)

Block Use 3x Senior Teams	£680.00 VAT Exempt + £25 deposit
3x Junior Teams Casual Matches / Lettings	£25.00 inc VAT £37.50 inc VAT

OUTDOOR BOWLS

Eden Lane Club	} @ £668.00 less 50% discount	£334.00 VAT
Exempt		
Lowhills Road Club	for attendants duties	(£668.00 less 50% discount)
Casual Bookings		T.B.A. with Clubs

175. **PETERLEE BUS STATION – LETTER OF COMPLAINT FROM DENEHOUSE & CHAPEL HILL SOUTH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

Members were circulated with a letter received from the Secretary of the Denehouse & Chapel Hill South Residents Association regarding the untidy state of the bus station and the Town Clerk advised of the action he had taken. Members were also concerned at the limitations being imposed on the use of the bus station for example taxis not

being allowed to drop people off in the bus station when they were taking a coach holiday. The issue of the former Arriva Office in the station not being used was also pointed out. It was asked that the Town Clerk contact the owners/operators of the bus station and take these matters up with them.

RECOMMENDED that this course of action be followed and these issues also be discussed when a representative of the County Council was in attendance at a future meeting to discuss bus services in the Town.

176. ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOR – SHADFORTH CLOSE

The Town Clerk reported that he had been approached by local residents in Shadforth Close, Old Shotton regarding problems of anti social behavior and trespass into their gardens that bordered the fence at Shotton Hall. The Town Clerk advised that the Crime Prevention Officer was to make a visit to these properties to give advice. He felt that one of the suggestions was perhaps the use CCTV monitors.

RECOMMENDED that information from the Crime Prevention Officer be awaited.

177. EAST DURHAM HERITAGE OPEN DAYS – MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21ST FEBRUARY 2007

Members were circulated with a copy of the minutes following a recent meeting of the Steering Group making proposals for the East Durham Heritage Open Days, where the Town Council was represented by the Facilities Manager.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

178. 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.

179. PRODUCTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

The Town Clerk asked for permission to continue the business relationship currently enjoyed with the Star Series newspaper (Newsquest) for the production and issue of the Council's quarterly newsletter at a cost of £731.00 per page plus VAT.

RECOMMENDED that approval be given to re-enter in to another agreement with the Star Series to produce the Council's quarterly Newsletter for 2007/2008.

180. FIRE RISK ASSESSMENTS – FURTHER INSPECTION

The Town Clerk asked for endorsement of action taken in arranging for a second inspection by the Consultant that had inspected the premises to produce a Fire Risk Assessment Report for the Town Council at a cost of £120.00.

RECOMMENDED that the action taken by the Town Clerk.

PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM COUNCILLOR J I MEASOR DECLARED AN INTEREST AND TOOK NO PART IN THE DISCUSSION WHICH ENSUED.

181. PETERLEE TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB (LTD) – LETTER FROM MR P MULCASTER

The Town Clerk outlined for Members details of the offer made by

Mr Mulcaster and asked for their views. The Town Clerk re-iterated the intention of the Social Club had, and continued to be, to support the Peterlee Town Football Team(s).

RECOMMENDED that consideration of this letter and its contents be deferred.

182. CLOSING OF ACCOUNTS 2007/08 – RBS SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS – PAYMENT OF EXPENSES

The Town Clerk had circulated for Members details of an increase in the costs of the consultant used to close the Council's Accounts.

RECOMMENDED that the Council continue to use RBS Software Solutions to close their accounts and the increase in costs be agreed.

183. FOOTPATH FROM PETERLEE TO HORDEN

The Town Clerk was pleased to be able to advise that Horden Parish Council had agreed to contribute £4,460 towards costs of repairing the footpath between Peterlee and Horden from Eden Lane.

RECOMMENDED that a letter of thanks be sent to Horden Parish Council for their contribution towards these path works.

184. RAYNET – PARKING/STORAGE OF VEHICLE

The Town Clerk reported that he had been approached by Raynet with a request for help with the storage/parking of a new trailer that they had obtained through grant funding. This Group were one of the important partners in emergency planning with their communications equipment and the Clerk had discussed with both the Estate Manager and Facilities Manager any possibilities where the Town Council may be able to assist. The Town Clerk suggested that perhaps the District of Easington may be able to assist as their Armstrong Road Deport had a 24 hour security guard and access.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk be given approval to assist with this request wherever possible.

185. SOMME & YPRES, PROPOSED BCET TOUR, 5TH – 7TH JUNE 2007

The Town Clerk reported receipt of information regarding a tour based in France for two nights arranged by the War Research Society and BCET.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.