

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 2ND APRIL 2007

PRESENT: COUN D COATES (CHAIR)

Mesdames: A E Laing

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

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

IN THE ABSENCE OF BOTH THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE
CHAIRMAN COUNCILLOR D COATES WAS NOMINATED TO THE
CHAIR.

186. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

187. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Matters Arising

(a) Minute Number 161 – Unitary Status

The Town Clerk confirmed that it had been announced that sixteen
local authorities had been successful in their bids to become Unitary
Authorities, one of which was Durham County Council.

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

(b) Minute Number 172 – Sustainable Communities Bill

As agreed at the last meeting information had been obtained from John Cummings, MP, the above Bill.

RECOMMENDED in the light of the information received the Town Council do not respond any further on this Bill.

(c) Minute Number 173 – NALC Article

Members were circulated with a draft copy of the article prepared by the Town Clerk which was to appear in the publication Local Council Review.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted.

(d) Minute Number 175 – Peterlee Bus Station- Progress

Members were advised that Richard Startup from Durham County Council was to attend the Council Meeting on the 16th April 2007 to discuss issues relating to public transport in the Town along with matters relating to the bus station. He had asked if questions could be forwarded to him prior to the meeting so that he could have answers for Members at the meeting. Members asked that details of ownership and operation of the bus station be clarified also.

RECOMMENDED that questions be forwarded to the Clerk prior to the Council Meeting.

188. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 21ST MARCH 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was adopted, subject to one of the returnable deposits being checked.

In considering the report reference was made to the various suppliers of materials and it was **RECOMMENDED that the Audit Sub Committee be convened to look at procedures for the selecting suppliers for goods to the Town Council.**

189. THE REPORT OF THE YOUTH GROUP HELD ON THE 26TH MARCH 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each

Member, was adopted.

In discussions details of the Common Purpose Leadership Programme who were seeking projects from across the UK for senior leaders from a professional service firm to work on, were given. It was asked if the Town Council could benefit from this opportunity and host a project.

The Deputy Town Clerk asked for permission to invite the members of the Youth Council to the Annual General Meeting and this was agreed. Members were keen to attend future meetings as and when they were available and it was asked that a list of the meeting dates be forwarded.

RECOMMENDED that the Youth Council be invited along to the AGM and a list of future meeting dates be sent to Members.

190. MINUTES OF THE COUNTY DURHAM ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCIL'S EXECUTIVE MEETING OF THE 6TH DECEMBER 2006, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were accepted.

191. REPORT OF THE PASMORE PAVILION STEERING GROUP MEETING OF THE 22ND FEBRUARY 2007 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were accepted.

192. CALCULATION OF COUNCIL TAX BASE

Members were circulated with details of the Council Tax being levied throughout the District.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

193. PRIDE IN EASINGTON – INVOLVING LOCAL PEOPLE, 5TH MARCH 2007 – DELEGATE'S REPORT

Members were circulated with a copy of the delegate's report following his attendance at this meeting.

RECOMMENDED that the report be accepted.

194. AMENDMENTS TO MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

Members were circulated with details on progress with the amendments to the Model Code of Conduct. It was hoped that recommendations from the Standards Committee would be sent to Parish and Town Councils in the hope that they could be adopted at the AGM or as soon after as possible.

RECOMMENDED that further details be awaited.

195. 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

196. INTERNAL AUDIT SUMMARY OF WORK 2006/07

The Town Clerk gave Members details of negotiations for this service provided by the District of Easington's Internal Audit Section.

RECOMMENDED that authority be given to engage the Internal Audit Section, District of Easington once again, to carry out internal audit work for 2007/2008 at the prices as given for 14 days work.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED that this be reviewed in one years time by the Audit Sub Committee.

197. PETERLEE TOWN CENTRE CLOCK – SERVICE AGREEMENT

Details had been received from Smiths of Derby of an opportunity to commit to a service agreement for 3, 4 or 5 years, with a percentage discount for payment in advance for future maintenance of the Peterlee Town Centre Clock.

RECOMMENDED that a three year contract be agreed with Smiths of Derby for the annual service and maintenance of the Town Centre Clock at a total cost of £477.90.

198. ITEC SITE

The Town Clerk reported that the partial release of the restrictive covenant had now been completed.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted.

199. HERR SCHLACHTER- STADT NORDENHAM

The Town Clerk advised that Herr Joachim Schlachter died on 29th March 2007.

RECOMMENDED that a letter of condolence and flowers be sent to Frau Schlachter.