

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 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007

PRESENT COUN R KYLE (CHAIR)

Mesdames: J I Measor, M A Cartwright, J  
Scott

Messrs: R Curtis, B Scott, J Alvey, H  
Bennett MBE, W M Jeffrey, R Jones, D  
Langan, R Huitson, D Milsom & E W Hall

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors L  
Wood, C Robbins, C Austin, G Cowie, M Milsom, C J Metcalfe, & T  
Jones.

2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Matters Arising

(a) Minute Number 199 – Herr Schlachter – Stadt Nordenham

The Town Clerk reported receipt of a letter of thanks from the  
widow of Herr Schlachter.

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

(b) Minute 187(d) Peterlee Bus Station it was reported that arrangements were in hand for a County Council representative to attend a future meeting.

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

3. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 25<sup>th</sup> MAY 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was accepted.

4. THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PASMORE PAVILION STEERING GROUP OF THE 29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were accepted.

**RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk write to the District of Easington to ascertain their current position on this matter.**

5. THE NOTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE PETERLEE YOUTH GROUP OF THE 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL & 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2007 copies of which had been circulated to each Member, were accepted.

6. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW

- (a) DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

(i) Leaflet – Circulated to each Household

(ii) Unitary Local Government Discussion Meeting

The Council Leader along with the Clerk attended this meeting at County Hall, Durham on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2007. The Leader gave a verbal report for Members on the content of the meeting.

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

- (b) DISTRICT OF EASINGTON

(i) Referendum

This had been issued to all residents on the electoral roll by each of the District Council authorities in County Durham. Members supported this action as they felt, as had been agreed previously, that the public should have their say in the proposals for local government.

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

7. ADOPTION OF A NEW CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COUNCILLORS

Members were circulated with a copy of the report of the Monitoring Officer that was adopted by the District of Easington. The Town Clerk also advised that training sessions were to be held on the New Code on the 25<sup>th</sup> June and 4<sup>th</sup> July 2007 full details of which would be forwarded in due course. All Members were encouraged to attend.

**RECOMMENDED that the invitation be noted.**

8. REPRESENTATION ON THE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Further consideration was given to the Town Council being represented by a Member on this body.

**RECOMMENDED that the Town Council continue to be represented by an Officer at these meetings and any Member wishing to become involved advise the Office accordingly.**

9. FINANCIAL BUDGET COMPARISON – 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2006 – 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2007

Members were circulated with a copy of the Budget Monitor for the

full financial year 2006/07 along with a more detailed report from the Town Clerk giving details regarding the increases in income over the year.

**RECOMMENDED that the report be accepted.**

10. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2006/07 – NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT  
DATE FOR EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS

Notice had been given that the District Auditor had appointed 16<sup>th</sup> July 2007 at 10.00am as the date on or after which local government electors for the area to which the accounts relate may exercise their rights under Sections 15 & 16 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 to question the Auditor about or make objections to the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007.

The Town Clerk reported that the appropriate public notice had been made in the press.

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

11. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRAMME 2007/08 - PROGRESS

The Town Clerk reported that following discussion with the Internal Auditor it had been agreed that the Cemetery Service and a Value for Money Study on the leasing of Parks vehicles and equipment against outright purchase should be carried out under the Internal Audit Programme for 2007/08.

**RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted and the reports be awaited.**

12. PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL - AUDIT PLAN 2007/08 - DRAFT

The draft of the Audit Plan for Peterlee Town Council for 2007/08 was circulated for each Member's information. The Plan sets out the work the District's Audit Team proposes to undertake in relation to the 2007/08 accounts, and the fees relating to this work.

**RECOMMENDED that the Audit Plan be accepted.**

13. EASINGTON REGENERATION STATEMENT – FINAL DRAFT REPORT

Members were circulated with a copy with the Easington Regeneration Statement which outlined the authority's long-term plans for the economic, social and environmental regeneration of the District. It also detailed how the District of Easington propose to invest in regeneration to help realize the Districts vision for 2021 and reflected upon the progress made to date.

Members who wished to feed back any comments or view could do so by completing the appropriate form.

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

14. TAXI RANK – PETERLEE BUS STATION

Members were circulated with a copy of a reply received from the Integrated Transport Unit at Durham County Council regarding the use of Peterlee Bus Station. Members felt strongly that all bus operators should be allowed to use the station to safely pick up and drop off passengers rather than having to use other areas such as the Peterlee Lodge lay by. The Town Clerk confirmed that an invitation had been issued to a representative from Durham County Council to come along to a future meeting to discuss such matters.

**RECOMMENDED that this invitation be followed up.**

15. REQUEST FOR A MULTI USE/PLAY AREA – CHAPEL HILL  
SOUTH

Members were circulated with a copy of a letter received from a Local Member requesting consideration be given to providing further play facilities in the Dene House Ward. The Town Clerk explained that the Town Council had a current policy of providing one play area in each Ward. He also referred to the Helford Road Re-build scheme which was to be undertaken in the very near future, and meant that the Town Council would not have monies available in the immediate future to use for further capital projects.

**RECOMMENDED that this matter be given further consideration at a future meeting.**

16. YOUTH WORK – SUPPORT

Members were circulated with an e mail detailing costs involved in the engagement of youth worker support from East Durham Groundwork Trust. The Town Clerk confirmed that he intended taking the matter of co-ordination of youth work in Peterlee up at the next meeting of the Pathfinder Project.

**RECOMMENDED that approval be given to support being engaged from East Durham Groundwork Trust for the Peterlee Youth Group and the Town Clerk report back on discussions at the Pathfinder Meeting.**

17. HILL RIGG HOUSE – REQUEST FOR EXTERNAL ASH TRAYS

Members were advised of receipt of a request for the provision of smoking ash trays outside Hill Rigg House, (Sure Start Nursery). The Town Clerk had written to Surestart seeking their views on this request. Members did not feel that this request was appropriate bearing in mind the use of the building by children.

**RECOMMENDED that the request be refused and the Council's Policy be confirmed of No Smoking in Town Council Buildings.**

18. 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.

19. HILL RIGG HOUSE – AGREEMENT WITH SURE START  
**RECOMMENDED** that approval be given “in principle” for the Town Council to take the freehold of the Sure Start Building and lease back the building on a peppercorn rent to the County Council, an appropriate service charge being agreed between the parties. **FURTHER RECOMMENDED** the Town Clerk to prepare a further report on the appropriate service charge.

20. MACHINERY PURCHASE – RIDE ON GRASS CUTTING MACHINE

Consideration was given to the report of the Estate Manager in the above regard.

**RECOMMENDED** that Standing Orders be waived and plenary powers be granted to purchase an ex-demonstration Kubota diesel G2160 ride on grass cutting machine for £6,500.00 from Lloyds.

21. ALCOHOL DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACE ORDERS

The Town Clerk reported receipt of a letter advising that an application was to be made under the above Order to cover the following areas of Peterlee:-

- Town Centre

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2007

- Grampian Drive, incl Woodhouse Park
- Beverley Way
- Yoden Road
- Edenhill Road
- Oakerside Drive
- Nesbitt Road/Fulwell Road and
- Helford Road

**RECOMMENDED that:-**

- (i) the Town Council forward a letter of support for the Orders being made;**
- (ii) the Town Clerk give an indication that the Town Council were willing to contribute to signage for the scheme, and he find out what costs were involved and advise Members accordingly;**
- (iii) the Town Clerk ask that the press be notified of the scheme and the Town Council's support.**