

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE
ON MONDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2008

PRESENT: COUN C J METCALFE (CHAIR)

Mesdames: L Wood, M Milsom & J Black

Messrs: T Jones, J Alvey, J Hardy, W M
Jeffrey, D Langan, H Bennett MBE, 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.**

203. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors S
McDonnell, G Cowie and M A Cartwright.

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

Matters Arising

(i) Minute Number 102(i) Apollo Pavilion Photography Project

To note the decision made at the Clerk's Advisory Committee to
purchase photographic materials to the value of £94.88 for this
project.

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(ii) Minute Number 102(iii) Area Action Partnerships

RECOMMENDED that a further meeting be arranged with Seaham Town Council, and more Members be involved, if possible, at any future meetings.

(iii) Minute Number 102(iv) – NALC Larger Local Councils Committee

To report that Councillor W M Jeffrey was successfully elected to this Committee.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

(iv) Minute Number 102(v) – Peterlee Primary School/Kingdom Hall Drainage

To note the report following the site meeting and the recommendation that no access point be installed adjacent Ellison Bank and that the fence be replaced with a timber post and rail fence.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

(iv) Minute Number 11 – Campaign to Protect Rural England – Membership Renewal

To note that the Council agreed that the membership be renewed once again.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

205. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE OF THE 20TH NOVEMBER 2008 a copy of which had been circulated was agreed.

206. THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE APOLLO PAVILION STEERING GROUP OF THE 4TH NOVEMBER 2008 a copy of which had been circulated were agreed.

207. THE MINUTES OF THE CASTLE EDEN JOINT MANAGEMENT

been circulated were agreed.

208. CASTLE EDEN DENE – CONSTITUTION

The Town Clerk reported receipt of a copy of an e mail from David Taylor Gooby to Rod Lugg, Head of Environment at Durham County Council, regarding the constitution, financing etc of the Castle Eden Dene Joint Management Committee after the 1st April 2009.

RECOMMENDED that progress, be awaited.

209. OPEN EVENING & DISPLAY OF SHOTTON HALL INFANT & JUNIOR SCHOOL DESIGN PLANS

Members were circulated with details of the open evening and display of design plans for Shotton Hall Infant and Junior Schools.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

210. POSSIBLE CLOSURE OF EAST DURHAM TRANSPORT

Members were circulated with a copy of a letter requesting the Town Council's support against their possible closure of their organization.

It was confirmed that their service was used by the Town Council and following discussion it was **RECOMMENDED that a letter of support be sent.**

211. A NEW HOSPITAL FOR HARTLEPOOL, STOCKTON & PARTS OF EASINGTON AND SEDGEFIELD

Members were circulated with a copy of dates of public exhibitions running from December 2008 to January 2009 where they were invited to view the proposals for the new hospital and make comments.

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RECOMMENDED that Members attend where available. **FURTHER RECOMMENDED** the Town Clerk make an appropriate response regarding the location and facilities to be offered at the new hospital.

212. NHS COUNTY DURHAM & DARLINGTON PCT - ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN 2009-2010

Members were circulated with a copy of the Commissioning Intentions which will shape the County Durham NHS Annual Operational Plan 2009/2010.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

213. PARISH BASIC ALLOWANCE

Members were circulated with a copy of correspondence from the District of Easington advising that if the Town Council adopted the recommendations of the Parish Remuneration Panel, which they did, the current levels of Parish basic allowance may now be increased by 2.45% and backdated to 1st April 2008.

RECOMMENDED that this increase be implemented for Members as from 1st April 2008.

214. TWINNING VISIT 2009 – PROPOSED DATE – 29TH JUNE – 9TH JULY 2009

Members were advised that the proposed dates of the next twinning visit suggested by Nordenham were 29th June to 9th July 2009. Members were agreeable to these dates and gave approval to make the usual arrangements for the visit.

RECOMMENDED that the date of the visit be confirmed as 29th June – 9th July 2009 and approval be given to make the usual

215. GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE – POPULAR EXISTING ROUTES AND DESIRED ROUTES

Members had been asked to consider this matter and advise the Town Clerk so that a reply could be co-ordinated to Groundwork East Durham.

Councillor Alvey asked that a footpath at Lowhills Road to the Sure Start Building and Play Area be put forward as a desired footpath.

RECOMMENDED that this suggestion be put forward to Groundwork East Durham.

216. PROPOSED PUBLIC PATH STOPPING UP & DIVERSION ORDER – PEMBROKE PLACE

Members were circulated with information on this stopping up and diversion order for Pembroke Place.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

217. PRICE OF NEW YEAR'S EVE TICKETS 2009

Members were asked to consider the pricing of the tickets for the 2009 event.

RECOMMENDED that the ticket price be held as last year, and set at £25.00 and authority be given for arrangements to be put in hand for tickets to be printed immediately.

218. FINANCIAL UPDATE – SORP

The Town Clerk gave details on this matter and following consideration it was **RECOMMENDED** that a response as

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suggested by the Town Clerk that representations be made for Larger Parish Councils to be removed from the application of SORP be submitted.

219. VAT – CHANGE IN THE STANDARD RATE: A SUMMARY GUIDE FOR VAT –REGISTERED BUSINESSES

Members were circulated with a copy of information received from HM Revenue & Customs following the change in the standard rate of VAT to 15% as from 1st December 2008.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

220. 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

221. ITEC SITE

The Town Clerk gave Members details of continuing negotiations with this matter.

RECOMMENDED that further progress be awaited.

222. APOLLO PAVILION – DAILY INSPECTIONS

The Town Clerk asked for Member's consideration of carrying out an

inspection and open/closing service for the Pasmore Pavilion and suggested a price for this operation being carried out by Town Council operatives.

RECOMMENDED that the price be set at £15.00 per hour.

223. CIVIC TAXI CONTRACT – JANUARY 2009 – DECEMBER 2010

Consideration was given to prices submitted to carry out this service for the Town Council.

RECOMMENDED that the price submitted by Peterlee Executive Cars, be accepted and the Town Clerk be granted plenary powers to have a start date of 1st January 2009 for a two year contract.

224. HELDFORD WORKING PARTY – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29TH OCTOBER 2008

The Town Clerk advised that there had been a further meeting of the Working Party which had addressed some of the issues raised at this meeting, he therefore suggested that the two sets of minutes be considered together.

RECOMMENDED that this course of action be agreed.

225. FUTURE REGENERATION MEETINGS

The Town Clerk advised that there had been a recent site meeting of the Peterlee Regeneration Panel. At the meeting on return from site, he had suggested that all Town Council Members should be involved in the proposed representation on the Growth Point Bid, regeneration discussions and this was generally agreed.

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RECOMMENDED that all Town Council Members be invited to go along to the next Regeneration Presentation on a date yet to be arranged.

226. NALC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY FOR PARISH & TOWN COUNCILLORS, COVENTRY, 24TH - 25TH NOVEMBER 2008

A copy of the delegate's report following his attendance at this event was circulated for each Member.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

227. BONFIRE & FIREWORK DISPLAY

Members were circulated with press releases following this recent Town Activity organized by the Town Council. It was noted that the response to the alternative to the bonfire had been very well received and it was suggested that this be considered for future years.

RECOMMENDED that this be considered for future events.

