

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE
ON MONDAY 12TH JANUARY 2009

PRESENT: COUN C J METCALFE (CHAIR)

Mesdames: S McDonnell, L Wood, J I
Measor & M A Cartwright

Messrs: R Kyle, J Alvey, J Hardy, W M
Jeffrey, R Curtis, D Langan, H Bennett
MBE, R Jones, R Huitson, D Milsom, E W
Hall & C Austin

**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 MEMBERS STOOD FOR A
MINUTES SILENCE AS A MARK OF RESPECT FOR THE LATE
BRIAN JOYCE, A FORMER TOWN & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR.

228. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors M
Milsom, J Black, G Cowie & C Robbins.

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

Matters Arising

Minute Number 116 & 153 – Seizing the Future – Public Consultation Document

The Town Clerk advised that he had attended the recent exhibition held at Peterlee Leisure Centre and circulated for Member's attention a copy of the information that was on display. He asked for any feedback as soon as possible to make a comment if necessary.

RECOMMENDED that Members contact the Town Clerk should they have any comments to make on the plans and information circulated.

230. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE OF THE 18TH DECEMBER 2008 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member was agreed.

231. DURHAM HERITAGE COAST - ANNUAL FORUM 2008 – DELEGATE'S REPORT

Consideration was given to the delegate's report following his attendance at this meeting. During discussions reference was made to the disabled access and car parking scheme at Dene Mouth which had previously been given Durham County Council's Cabinet approval but then had not been actioned.

RECOMMENDED that this issue be clarified and Members be advised accordingly.

232. NALC CONFERENCE 20TH – 21ST NOVEMBER 2008, LONDON – DELEGATE'S REPORT

A copy of the delegate's report following attendance at this conference was circulated to each Member.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

233. NOTICE OF MEETING - CENTRAL AREA FORUM – 14TH JANUARY 2009, PETERLEE METHODIST CHURCH

Members were advised that the next meeting of the Central Area Forum was to be held on Wednesday 14th January 2009.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

234. INVITATION FOR THE MAYOR & CLERK TO GO TO BAESWEILER – 19TH FEBRUARY – 25TH FEBRUARY 2009

The Town Clerk reported receipt of an invitation to visit Baesweiler in February 2009.

RECOMMENDED that the invitation be declined in accordance with the Council's existing policy.

235. THE MINUTES OF THE SHOTTON HALL SUB COMMITTEE OF THE 24TH NOVEMBER 2008, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were accepted.

236. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL – CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES - PUBLIC CONSULTATION – SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS SEPTEMBER 2010 AND BEYOND

Members were circulated with a copy of the consultation document on the school admission arrangements for September 2010 and beyond.

Members were interested in ascertaining what had prompted the

proposed changes to the schools admissions criteria for Community Secondary Schools and asked what the background to this was. Members were extremely concerned that where more requests for places at a particular school were made than were available, the application of criteria 4(b) relating to distance may place Peterlee pupils in a disadvantaged situation. Members felt they needed further information on this proposal before it could be fully discussed.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk investigate this matter further and advise Members accordingly.

237. BOARD MEMBERSHIP OF EAST DURHAM COLLEGE CORPORATION

Members were circulated with a reply received from East Durham College advising that currently there was a full complement of Board Members and a reserve list. The College were however keen to foster relationships and work in partnership with Peterlee Town Council and would welcome applications from Members of the Council as vacancies could occur at short notice. The College agreed it would be good to enhance links between the two organizations.

RECOMMENDED that Councillor McDonnell make an application to the Board of the East Durham College Corporation on behalf of the Town Council.

238. COUNTY DURHAM ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS – REPLACEMENT OF DISTRICT COMMITTEES BY AAP LOCAL COUNCIL COMMITTEES - CONSULTATION

Consideration was given to the proposal put forward by the County Durham Association which mirrored the structure for the AAPs across the County.

RECOMMENDED that this item be referred to the Council Meeting for further consideration.

239. AUDIT COMMISSION – SCALE OF FEES 2009/10

Members were circulated with a copy of the scale of fees to be applied by the Audit Commission for 2009/10.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted.

240. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL – DRAFT POLICIES FOR INFORMATION AND COMMENT

- (i) Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Licensing
- (ii) The Gambling Act 2005
- (iii) The Licensing Act 2003

Members were circulated with a copy of the above draft policies produced by Durham County Council developed taking into consideration best practice and relevant guidance notes on each area of operation. Comments were sought, (if appropriate).

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted and no comments be made on the draft policies.

241. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL – REQUEST FOR PRECEPT INFORMATION 2009/2010

Members were circulated with a copy of the request received from Durham County Council for the amount of precept required by the Town Council for 2009/10. The Town Clerk had prepared the draft proposal for the setting of the Council's budget and asked that these be considered together. He advised that there were issues, however, relating to double taxation that he was awaiting confirmation from the County Council on.

RECOMMENDED that this action be agreed.

242. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2009/10, 2010/11 AND 2011/12

Consideration was given to the draft report of the Town Clerk, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

RECOMMENDED that this item be referred to the Council Meeting for further consideration.

243. 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.,

244. DEDICATION OF LAND FOR ACCESS/FOOTPATH EXTENSION AND EASEMENTS FOR DRAINAGE PURPOSES FOR THE NEW PETERLEE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Consideration was given to the offer made by the County Council, (subject to Cabinet approval), as set out in the letter dated 23rd December 2008.

RECOMMENDED that the offer as detailed in the letter, be accepted.

245. REQUEST TO USE THE CAR PARK ADJACENT HELFORD ROAD PLAY AREA FOR THE STORAGE OF CABINS IN CONNECTION WITH THE REWIRING SCHEME IN THE PASSFIELD WARD

The Town Clerk reported receipt of a request from Kier Group who were to be working on houses in the Passfield Ward to site three

cabins in the car park at Helford Road for a period of approximately 12 weeks. In considering this request Members felt that some financial recompense should be made to the Town Council and it was **RECOMMENDED that permission be given for these cabins to be sited at Helford Road subject to the car park being fully reinstated after the use and the Town Clerk agreeing a suitable payment for this use.**

246. PETERLEE SHOW

The Chairman of this Committee asked if any work had been done on the organization of this year's Show. The Town Clerk advised that the Show Co-Ordinator had sent out tenders for the usual equipment, but other than that no action had as yet been taken.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.