

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE
ON MONDAY 6TH APRIL 2009

PRESENT: COUN C J METCALFE (CHAIR)

Mesdames: J Black, L Wood & M Milsom

Messrs: R Kyle, D Langan, D Milsom, J
Alvey, C Austin, R Huitson, R W Jones, E
W Hall & T Jones

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

286. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors W M Jeffrey, H Bennett MBE, J Hardy, C J Robbins & J I Measor.

287. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING & SPECIAL MEETINGS HELD ON 3RD & 19TH MARCH 2009, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

Matters Arising

(a) Minute Number 267 - CDALC – Power of Well Being Update

Confirmation was given of the training to take place on Wednesday 22nd April 2009 at 7.00pm – 9.00pm, in the Council Chamber, Shotton Hall. All Members were requested to attend.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

(b) Minute Number 274 - Peterlee Youth Centre – Meeting with the Cranx Crew – Note of the Meeting held on 4th March 2009

The Town Clerk confirmed that both he and Councillor Hardy had met with this Group and he had been in further discussions with them. A letter outlining their proposals was awaited.

RECOMMENDED that further details be awaited.

(c) Minute Number 278 – AAP Inaugural Events

The Town Clerk gave brief details of discussions at the CDALC Meeting held on 4th April 2009 and he suggested that it was important for as many Members as possible to come along to the launch meeting to be held on Monday 11th May 2009 between 5.30 – 8.00pm at Shotton Hall Banqueting Suites. The Deputy Leader suggested that all Members be registered for this event.

RECOMMENDED that this course of action be followed, and all Members be registered to attend the AAP Inaugural Event to be held on Monday 11th May 2009 at 5.30pm.

288. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE OF THE 26TH MARCH 2009 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member was agreed.

289. TOWN & PARISH STANDARD, ISSUE 4 – FEBRUARY 2009

Members were circulated with the latest copy of this newsletter issued by the Standards Board.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

290. EAST DURHAM COLLEGE – BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Members were circulated with a copy of a letter from the Acting Clerk to the Corporation regarding membership on the College Board. It was asked if anyone was interested for them to put their name forward on the appropriate nomination form. Councillor

McDonnell had already submitted an expression of interest in to join the Board.

RECOMMEDED that this course of action be agreed.

291. AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIPS

- (i) Population Estimates for AAPs
- (ii) DCC Cabinet Papers

Members were circulated with the population estimates for the Area Action Partnerships which the Town Clerk felt help to demonstrate the scale of the re-organization with Easington having a population of 94,000. He stressed how difficult it would be for the Town Council to get representation on the AAP Board. He intended circulating the notes from the CDALC meeting held on 4th April where he, the Leader and Councillor Langan had attended.

The Durham County Council Cabinet Papers gave further details on the AAPs.

RECOMMENDED that the further report be awaited.

292. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS CONFERENCE, YORK 16TH – 18TH JANUARY 2009 – DELEGATE’S REPORT

Members were circulated with a copy of the delegate’s report following their attendance at this Conference.

RECOMMENDED that this information given, be noted.

293. APOLLO PAVILION STEERING GROUP – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2009

Members were circulated with a copy of these minutes.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

294. ELECTORAL REVIEW OF THE NEW COUNTY DURHAM UNITARY AUTHORITY

Members were circulated with details received on the electoral review of the new County Durham Unitary Authority being carried out by the Boundary Committee for England.

Views were requested by 8th June 2009. A second period of public consultation would follow when the Boundary Committee's draft recommendations for County Durham were known.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

295. DURHAM ASSOCIATION NEWS – ISSUE 24 – MARCH 2009

Members were circulated with a copy of this newsletter.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

296. TREE PRESERVATION ORDER AT PETERLEE MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH, BEDE WAY

Members were circulated with details of the TPO in this location.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

297. TEMPORARY SPEED RESTRICTIONS, MICRO ASPHALTING SURFACING WORKS – FYNES CLOSE, BASINGSTOKE ROAD, KEMP ROAD, BEDFORD PLACE AND NORFOLK WALK

Members were circulated with details of works taking place at the above location.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

298. LSP – THANKYOU

Members were circulated with a copy of a letter of thanks received from the District of Easington Local Strategic Partnership for the Town Council's support for its work.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

299. SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO BUS SERVICES IN EAST DURHAM

Members were circulated with a copy of details of changes to bus services in East Durham. It was noted that the consultation had been carried out in a very limited time period not allowing sufficient time to make a response in time for the meeting when these changes were considered. It was also reported that that there was only one bus per hour for Sunny Blunts which was a well used service with no direct bus being available to Sunderland. It was suggested that the Town Council campaign to get pressure put on bus companies to address these issues.

RECOMMENDED that this course of action be followed.

300. GT GROUP BAND – NORTH OF ENGLAND 1ST SECTION CHAMPIONS

Members were circulated with an e mail advising of the GT Group Band's success in becoming the North of England 1st Section Champions.

RECOMMENDED a letter of congratulations be forwarded to GT Group Band.

301. POWER TO PROMOTE WELL-BEING OF THE AREA: STATUTORY GUIDANCE FOR LOCAL COUNCILS

Members were circulated with a copy of statutory guidance for Local Councils.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted and the Council continue with it's commitment to obtain the criteria required to use this power.

302. DISAPPLICATION OF SORP

The Town Clerk gave details on this matter and advised that updates were awaited.

RECOMMENDED that further developments be awaited.

303. SUMMARY OF INTERNAL AUDIT WORK FOR 2008/2009 – AND PLAN OF WORK FOR 2009/10

Members were circulated with a copy of the above documents.

RECOMMENDED that the summary of internal audit work completed in 2008/09 and planned work for 2009/2010 be accepted at a cost of £2,918.00 for 20 days work.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED the result of the investigation on Eden Lane Football Club, not included in the report, be supplied to Members.

304. 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

305. OUTSTANDING INVOICES

Details of invoices outstanding were given to Members. A further

report was to be issued following a review of the Council's Debt Management System.

RECOMMENDED that the following amounts from 2004/05 and 2005/06 be written off and the vat be reclaimed:-

Invoice number 1351	£1,094.48
1378	555.88
2094	135.11
2168	135.11
2419	124.95

306. INSURANCE CLAIM SETTLEMENT – TAIT

Members were advised of details from the Town Council's insurers relating to a claim where the file had been closed with no payment having been made.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

307. CASTLE EDEN DENE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Members were circulated with a copy of e mails regarding the future of the Management Committee at Castle Eden Dene and how it would be constituted.

RECOMMENDED that progress be awaited.

308. INCREASE IN WINDOW CLEANING CHARGES

A request for an increase in the charge levied for window cleaning at the Town Council's buildings had been received. The contractor providing the service had not increased his charges for a number of years.

RECOMMENDED that the increase in window cleaning charges be agreed as detailed in the request.

309. MOTHERING SUNDAY DRIVE WITH VOYAGER

Consideration was given to a request for compensation following an administrative error.

RECOMMENDED that compensation in the form of a further trip being offered to Mrs Thornton and a full refund for the cost of the original trip be offered.