

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2009

PRESENT: COUN C J METCALFE (CHAIR)

Mesdames: L Wood, M A Cartwright & J  
Black

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

**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 and accepted on behalf of  
Councillors R Jones, C Robbins, G Cowie & M Milsom.

2. NORTH PETERLEE NEIGHBOURHOOD PATHFINDER – 2009  
EVALUATION

The Chairman introduced Mr Rob Chapman, Manager of the North  
Peterlee Neighbourhood Pathfinder Programme. Members were also  
asked to refer to the feasibility paper produced and circulated into the  
development of Neighbourhood Management processes by Peterlee  
Town Council.

Mr Chapman suggested now was an excellent opportunity to carry out

a pilot that would draw up Pathfinder principles and to perhaps set up a small working party to look into priorities etc in engaging the community. This would need to be done as a matter of urgency as an application to do this would need to be submitted within the next couple of weeks.

The meeting was opened up for a question and answer session where the main issues were the financial implications for the Town Council in future years as there were no guarantees that funds could be available from precept. Mr Chapman explained that one of the first tasks of any new staff member would be to source a funding stream.

**RECOMMENDED that, subject to external resources being obtained, the Town Council carry out a pilot to embrace neighbourhood management techniques in Peterlee. FURTHER RECOMMENDED that a small working party be formed to progress this matter made up of the following Members:- Councillors H Bennett MBE, D Langan, D Milson, W M Jeffrey and J Alvey.**

3. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING 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 had taken place on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2009 and then on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2009. There was only one Member that still needed to undertake the training to achieve 100%, with only 80% being required to obtain the Power of Well Being.

**RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted and arrangements be made for the remaining Member to carry out the training when the opportunity arises.**

- (b) Minute Number 278 – AAP Inaugural Events

**RECOMMENDED that the summary report from these events be awaited.**

(c) Minute Number 303 – Summary of Internal Audit Work for 2008/2009

**RECOMMENDED that the further report as circulated to each Member, be accepted.**

4. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB COMMITTEES OF THE 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2009 & 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2009 copies of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

5. INCOME & EXPENDITURE BY BUDGET HEADING 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2008-31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2009

The Town Clerk intended preparing a further report to be considered at the Parks & Cemetery Committee. It was asked, if possible, could the public buildings codes be split to show income and expenditure for each building. The Town Clerk assured he would look into this and if it could be done within the accounting system he would arrange for this to be done.

**RECOMMENDED that the report be awaited.**

6. MINUTES OF THE TIDY T.E.D. MEETING OF THE 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2009 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member were received, it being noted that this organization had now been disbanded.

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

7. THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE APOLLO PAVILION COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member were received. It was noted that there had been discussions in linking in with the new Pavilion and establishing contact in the suggestion that it could be used as a visitor resource, for refreshments and toilet facilities.

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

8. CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH DURHAM COUNTY  
COUNCIL RE HELFORD ROAD - TRAFFIC

Members were circulated with a copy of the note following a site meeting convened by Durham County Council to consider traffic speed and numbers on Helford Road.

As the usage of the new building, “The Pavilion” was an unknown, it had been suggested at the site meeting a further traffic survey be undertaken in December 2009, when the new building would have been operational for six months.

**RECOMMENDED that the results of a further site meeting in December, be awaited.**

9. AUDIT COMMISSION - AUDIT FEE 2009/2010

Members were circulated with details of the fees provided by the Audit Commission for next year’s audit service.

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

10. CDALC CONSTITUTION – ALTERATION

A copy of the amended constitution for the County Durham Association of Local Councils was circulated to each Member.

**RECOMMENDED that no further comments be made on the constitution.**

11. LETTER OF THANKS

Members were circulated with a copy of a letter of thanks and appreciation from Steven Lamb following the death of his father Ronnie.

**RECOMMENDED that the letter be received.**

12. PETERLEE FIRE STATION OPEN DAY – SATURDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2009, 10 AM – 2PM

Members were circulated with a copy of an open invitation for Members to attend this Open Day.

**RECOMMENDED the invitation be received.**

13. LARGER LOCAL COUNCILS FORUM – SHOTTON HALL FRIDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2009

Members were advised that a meeting of the Larger Local Councils Forum had been arranged for Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

**RECOMMENDED that the Town Council representatives on this Forum attend the meeting, it being agreed that Councillor J Hardy attend in the place of Councillor Langan on this occasion.**

14. MINUTES OF THE CASTLE EDEN JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2009 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were received.

15. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS, VIOLENT CRIME & DISORDER, YORK – DELEGATE'S REPORT

**RECOMMENDED that the delegate's report following their attendance at this Conference be accepted.**

16. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS – REGENERATION & RENEWAL CONFERENCE, SCARBOROUGH – DELEGATE’S REPORT

**RECOMMENDED that the delegate’s report following their attendance at this Conference be accepted.**

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED that a further letter be sent to Durham County Council regarding the progress with the Peterlee Regeneration Plan.**

17. PETERLEE OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS – 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS – FRIDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2009, SHOTTON HALL

Members were invited to attend the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations of Peterlee Out of School Hours. Councillors Austin and Kyle expressed an interest in going along.

**RECOMMENDED that the invitation be noted and anyone wishing to go along advise the office as soon as possible.**

18. SURFACE DRESSING PROGRAMME – VARIOUS ROADS – TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE & SPEED RESTRICTIONS

Members were circulated with information received from Durham County Council on works in Peterlee which would involve speed restrictions, road closures and alternative routes which would be signed to vehicular traffic where applicable. It was noted the programme may be subject to change depending upon weather conditions.

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

17. AAP REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE TOWN & PARISH  
COUNCILS ON THE EASINGTON AAP BOARD

Members were circulated with details of the representative for the Town & Parish Councils on the Easington AAP Board. The elected representative was Councillor J Higgins of Wingate Parish Council with Councillor W M Jeffrey reserve.

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

19. EQUALITY & HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION – PUBLIC  
SECTOR DUTIES

Members were circulated with a copy of information received from The Equality and Human Rights Commission giving details of implications with the Equality Bill.

**RECOMMENDED that further implications be awaited.**

20. RESEARCH INTO THE COMPLIANCE COSTS OF THE  
TEMPORARY REDUCTION IN THE STANDARD RATE OF VAT

Members were circulated with details received from the HM Revenue & Customs on the above.

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

21. BUSINESS RATES DEFERRAL SCHEME 2009-10

Members were circulated with details of regulations to enable businesses to defer payment of 60% of the increase in their 2009-2010 business rate bills until 2010-11 and 2011-12.

**RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted and it be**

**agreed that the business rates not be deferred by the Town Council.**

22. 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.

23. ALLC FINAL ACCOUNTS & PAYMENTS DISTRIBUTION

**RECOMMENDED that the final accounts be accepted and it be agreed that Peterlee Town Council hold the remaining documents and badge of office from the disbanded organization.**

24. ASDA STORE

Members were circulated with information from the Town Centre Manager relating to an issue in the Town Centre that had been discussed at a recent meeting with the Asda Manager.

**RECOMMENDED that a report on the issue be requested from Durham County Council and Members be advised accordingly.**

25. PETERLEE FOOTBALL CLUB - INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

Members were circulated with a copy of the internal control report, (audit report), on the Football Club income and expenditure, collection of bad debts and bad debt provision.



**RECOMMENDED that the contents of the report be received but be considered in more detail by a small working party of Council Members.**

26. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF PETERLEE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, EDEN HILL HOUSE, EDEN LANE ON WEDNESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2009 AT 6.00PM

Members were advised of the above public meeting. At this point a Local Member expressed his grave concerns at the future of the Whitehouse Community Association. The Leader also echoed these concerns commenting that there was a need to protect community organisations and urgent action was needed to make sure that this happened. He suggested that contact be made urgently with Councillor Alan Napier to ask for a meeting as soon as possible on the issue.

**RECOMMENDED that this course of action be followed.**

27. HIGHWAYS ACTION LINE

A Local Member expressed his frustration at the length of time spent trying to making a report to the telephone action line operated by the County Council.

**RECOMMENDED that this situation be monitored.**