

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE  
ON MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2009

PRESENT: COUN T A JONES (CHAIR)

Mesdames: S McDonnell, L Wood & M Milsom

Messrs: R Kyle, J Alvey, H Bennett MBE,  
J Hardy, W M Jeffrey, R Curtis, R W Jones, D Langan,  
C J Metcalfe, C Robbins, 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.**

70. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted and approved on behalf of  
Councillors G Cowie, (personal matters); C Austin, (on holiday), J I  
Measor, (family bereavement).

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

Matters Arising

(i) Minute Number 53 – East Durham Citizens Advice Bureau

The Town Clerk gave further details on the issue of being a trustee on  
this organization following his conversation with the Manager. The  
representative explained his frustration at the way meetings were

called, and often cancelled at very short notice, an issue which he intended bringing up at the next meeting.

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

(ii) Minute Number 54 – The Council and the Community Training  
**RECOMMENDED that it be noted the date of this training had been changed to the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2009, same time same venue.**

(iii) Minute Number 57 – CDALC Executive Committee Allowances – Comparison with the Town Council

Members were circulated with details showing the Town Council's rates and the CDLAC Executive rates. The Town Clerk suggested he look into the NALC current rates, and advise Members accordingly.

**RECOMMENDED that further information be awaited.**

(iv) Minute Number 59 – Regeneration of Peterlee – to confirm the date and time of the meeting with Unitary Councillors

**RECOMMENDED that it be noted that the meeting was to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at 6.00pm.**

72. EAST DURHAM AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP

The Chairman welcomed Shealagh Pearce, Principle Area Co ordinator. Mrs Pearce explained that she had been in post for five weeks now and had been overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of those who want to be involved in the AAP and its work. She detailed what had been done so far and what was to happen next. It was reported that the Task Groups had narrowed down an Action Plan with 3 key priority areas, then down to action points which would then be submitted to the Board for formal approval. She reported on the funding that was available to Local Unitary Authority Members.

The Chairman then opened the meeting for a lively question and answer session which included the following issues:-

- The notice of meetings
- How the AAPs had been established, and the historical situation with East Durham, particularly Peterlee;
- Schemes submitted by the Town Council to the Unitary Authority Members;

- How local people could get their voice heard through the AAP.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Pearce for coming along and she said she would like to come again to a future meeting(s).

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

73. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE MEETING OF 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009, a copy of which was circulated, was adopted, subject to Councillor R Jones being shown as in attendance.

74. EASINGTON POLICE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP, THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2009 AT 7.00PM, HORDEN WELFARE CENTRE, MINERS HALL, HORDEN

Members were advised of arrangements for this meeting if they wished to attend.

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

75. EAST DURHAM AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIPS – TASKING & FINISHING GROUPS

Details of an invitation to attend the second round of Tasking and Finishing Group meetings was circulated to each Member. The Town Clerk advised intended to go along to the Regeneration Meeting to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2009, Haswell.

**RECOMMENDED that progress from these meetings be awaited.**

76. SHOWMEN'S GUILD – INVITATIONS

As requested to do so in previous years, the Town Clerk advised that four invitations had been received to the Showmen's Guild Event on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2009, Ramside Hall, Durham, for the Mayor, Leader of the Council, Town Clerk and the Show Co Ordinator. It was suggested that the Chairman of the Show should have received an invitation and that perhaps they should be drawn out of a hat. The Town Clerk, in reply, advised that these were personal invitations issued by the Guild and were non transferable.

**RECOMMENDED that the invitations be accepted and the information given, be noted.**

77. PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING EVENT, COUNTY HALL  
DURHAM, 3<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009 – DELEGATE'S REPORT

The delegate's report following their attendance at this event was circulated to each Member for their information.

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

78. NALC CONFERENCE, PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST – 4<sup>TH</sup> & 5<sup>TH</sup>  
SEPTEMBER 2009, LONDON – DELEGATE'S REPORT

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

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

79. THE STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND, BULLETIN  
NUMBER 45 – AUGUST 2009

Members were circulated with a copy of the latest bulletin issued by the Standards Board.

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

80. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL'S STRATEGY FOR BUS  
INFORMATION 2006 – 2011

Members were circulated with a copy of this document which detailed how bus timetable information was to be made available to public transport users in the County.

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

81. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

This issue had been referred from the Council Meeting of the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2009. Advice received from NALC via the County Durham Association of Local Councils on Legal Topic Notes 5 & 8 was circulated to each Member for their consideration.

A Local Member advised that he had contacted the Standards Board independently for advice.

**RECOMMENDED that in accordance with NALC recommended practice, the Town Council adopt a practice whereby a Councillor always gives a reason for absence from a meeting, and the minutes of that meeting record both the reason for absence and whether or not the Council approves it.**

82. MEMBERS & STAFF CHRISTMAS PARTY

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

83. LOWHILLS ROAD FORMER WARDENS HOUSE – PERMISSION  
TO ERECT A FENCE

This item had been referred from the Council Meeting of the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2009 where Mr Lamb had come along to the meeting to

ask Members to re-consider their original decision. The Town Clerk asked if Members would be agreeable to releasing a small piece of land, (2 feet from the footpath to the front of Mr Lamb's property), to Mr Lamb, subject to him obtaining the necessary planning permission. In granting this permission, Mr Lamb would be required to fence along his access drive and the boundary to his property.

**RECOMMENDED that this course of action, be agreed.**

84. COUNCILLOR J MASLIN – UNITARY AUTHORITY  
COUNCILLOR'S MONEY

Members were advised that Councillor Joan Maslin had approached the Town Council with a request for small projects/schemes to be considered for funding from an allocation made to her as Local Unitary Ward Member.

Following discussion, it was **RECOMMENDED that the following schemes be put forward to Councillor Maslin for consideration:-**

- **Road signage for the Pavilion;**
- **Seats and traffic calming measures for Durham Way;**
- **Footpaths and improved lighting around the Dene area.**

85. ELECTORAL REVIEW IN COUNTY DURHAM - DRAFT  
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOUNDARY COMMITTEE FOR  
ENGLAND

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

86. DURHAM COUNTY STRATEGIC FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT,  
(2009)

Members were circulated with information advising that DCC had

commissioned Golder Associates to carry out a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for the County. This was needed to manage development, and provide information in relation to the nature and severity of flooding throughout the County. The Town Council had been issued with a map and asked to identify any areas known to flood. Members offered Severn Close and Lowhills Road as two areas that were known to flood.

**RECOMMENDED that Severn Close/Oakerside Drive and Lowhills Road be forwarded to Golder Associates as areas prone to flooding.**

A Local Member also provided a copy of correspondence between residents of Oakerside Drive/Severn Close and Northumbrian Water regarding flooding in these areas, and asking for a public meeting on this matter.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED that a letter be sent to NWA supporting residents views that a public meeting should be called to discuss flooding/sewage problems at Severn Close/Oakerside Drive.**

87. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS – SUGGESTED RESOLUTION TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Members were circulated with a copy of a suggested resolution to be put to NAC.

**RECOMMENDED that the resolution as follows be forwarded to NAC....” Whilst wishing to continue to support the aims and objectives of the National Association of Councillors, Peterlee Town Council would ask the Association to consider, in line with some other national associations, whether the Association would be prepared to meet the expenses of Members voted onto the Executive Committee”.**

88. CLOSING OF ACCOUNTS 2008/09 - UPDATE

The Town Clerk gave Members progress with the closing of accounts for 2008/09 and advised that a representative of the Audit Commission would most probably be coming along to the next Council Meeting.

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

89. 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.

90. DURHAM VALUATION OFFICE – THE PAVILION, HELFORD ROAD

The Town Clerk advised that as suggested by the Audit Commission, he had arranged for asset and insurance valuations of the Pavilion. When considering this matter a Member referred to progress with the planned maintenance programme. The Town Clerk confirmed that DCC were carrying out regular inspection surveys with minor works being carried out as a result. The planned maintenance programme would be agreed when the budget was set.

**RECOMMENDED that the action taken by the Town Clerk in arranging for the Durham Valuation Office to carry out an asset valuation on the Pavilion to be included in the property portfolio at a cost of no more than £1,800, be endorsed.**

91. COMMUNITY GARDEN



The Town Clerk advised on progress with investigating alternative sites for this proposal. Unfortunately to date no suitable alternative had been found.

**RECOMMENDED that it be noted that the Town Council was unable to assist with this project at the current time and this advice be forwarded to Ms Chrisp.**

92. ONE N E TOURISM AWARDS

The Town Clerk was pleased to report that the Information Centre had been advised that they had been shortlisted for an award from ONE NE and asked for endorsement of action taken in ordering a further three tickets for the Awards Ceremony to be held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2009 so that the Chairman of the Information Centre Committee, Councillor Austin and all of the staff at the Centre could attend the event.

**RECOMMENDED that the action taken be endorsed, and the results be awaited.**

93. COMPLETING THE REGENERATION OF DALTON PARK, MURTON

Members were circulated with an invitation to attend a presentation evening outlining the forthcoming development proposals at Dalton Park on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at 7.15pm.

**RECOMMENDED that Councillors J Hardy, E W Hall, H Bennett MBE, R Kyle and the Town Clerk go along to this presentation.**