

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE
ON MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2009

PRESENT: COUN T A JONES (CHAIR)

Mesdames: S McDonnell & L Wood

Messrs: R Kyle, J Alvey, W M Jeffrey, R W Jones,
D Langan, G Cowie, C J Metcalfe, H Bennett MBE
C Robbins & R Huitson

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

94. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted and approved on behalf of Councillors R Curtis, (on holiday); J I Measor, (swine flu); J Black, (personal reasons); D and M Milsom, (on holiday).

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

Matters Arising

(a) Minute Number 72 – Regeneration of Peterlee

A note of the meeting held with the Unitary Councillors on the 20th October 2009 was circulated to each Member. It was noted that a further meeting would be held early in the New Year.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

(b) Minute Number 73 – The Report of the Finance Sub Committee

At the Council Meeting it was RESOLVED that Councillor J Alvey

be appointed Chairman and Councillor D Milsom be appointed Vice Chairman of the Finance Sub Committee.

(c) Minute Number 82 – Members & Staff Christmas Party

At the Council Meeting it was RESOLVED that this matter be deferred to the next meeting.

(d) Minute Number 85 – Electoral review in County Durham – Draft Recommendations of the Boundary Committee for England

At the Council Meeting it was RESOLVED that no comment be made on the draft recommendations of the Boundary Committee for England for the electoral review in County Durham.

(e) Minute Number 123 – Leader’s Report

At the Council Meeting it was RESOLVED that the issue of apologies for absence be considered further at the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

(f) Minute Number 93 – Dalton Park Development – Note of the presentation held on 15th October 2009

Members were circulated with a note of the presentation held at Dalton Park on the proposed new developments on the site.

RECOMMENDED that further developments be awaited prior to any comment being made.

96. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE MEETING OF 22ND OCTOBER 2009, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

97. CPRE MEMBERSHIP – SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

Consideration was given to the renewal of the Town Council’s subscription to the Council for the Protection of Rural England.

Following discussion it, was **RECOMMENDED that the subscription not be renewed at this time.**

98. HEALTHWORKS SERVICES – REQUEST TO ATTEND A
FUTURE MEETING

Members were circulated with a copy of a letter requesting an opportunity to attend a future Council Meeting to advise on the current service provision at the Easington Healthworks Building.

RECOMMENDED that an invitation be extended to the new Community Project Officer, Amy McKenna to come along to a future meeting to talk about their services.

99. EAST DURHAM AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP

(i) Dates for your Diary & Notice of Meetings

Members were advised of details of future meetings.

RECOMMENDED a request be made to have a future meeting held at Shotton Hall Banqueting Suites.

(ii) Progress Report: Priority Tasking and Finishing Groups

Details on progress with the Tasking and Finishing Groups was circulated to each Member. The Leader advised that he understood Councillor Higgins had resigned from his position as Parish/Town Council representative on the AAP but that further information on this matter would follow in due course.

RECOMMENDED that contact be made with the Unitary Members representing Peterlee to enquire as to progress with the bid for a skatepark for Peterlee.

100. A COUNCILLOR'S GUIDE TO PERFORMANCE
MANAGEMENT

Members were circulated with a copy of a Councillor's Guide to Performance Management, where a reference was made to Peterlee and it's risk management procedures.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

101. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL – LOCAL COUNCIL CHARTER

Members were circulated with a report prepared by the Town Clerk on this matter. The Town Clerk advised that whilst the document spoke positively on the relationship between the County Council and the Local Councils in County Durham, and the role played by the Parish and Town Councils, the Charter failed to recognize the strategic role Local Councils can play and this was reflected that this sector had no representation on the County Durham Partnership. This was considered at a recent Executive Meeting of CDALC where it was agreed that this view was to be put forward to the County Council.

RECOMMENDED that developments with this matter be awaited.

102. SPORTS ACTIVITIES DEVELOPMENT – GRANT APPLICATION

Members were circulated with a copy of the grant application submitted by the Sports Development Officer on behalf of the Town Council.

RECOMMENDED that the results of the application be awaited.

103. 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.

104. VISIT 2010 – NORDENHAM – THE ARRIVAL

Members were advised that that the organiser of the Stadtfest in Nordenham, Germany had invited the group Arrival, from Peterlee, to play at the Stadtfest. The Twinning Organiser had asked Nordenham what the financial arrangements were in relation to this invitation. This had not yet been confirmed.

RECOMMENDED that this information be awaited and this matter be reconsidered when received.

105. LIMESTONE LANDSCAPES CONFERENCE – 11TH NOVEMBER 2009, SUNDERLAND

Members were advised of receipt of details of a Conference being held at the Stadium of Light, Sunderland on 11th November 2009. The Town Clerk advised of the significance of this event as with areas within the Town Council's ownership were part of a limestone escarpment and a site of special scientific interest.

RECOMMENDED that one place be reserved for the Town Clerk to attend this event.

106. STOCK TAKE SUMMARY SHEETS & INCOME FROM LICENCED PREMISES

Members were circulated with a copy of stock take sheets for the three licensed premises belonging to the Town Council. Queries were raised on the wastage for Shotton Hall and it was suggested that these be clarified directly with the Member concerned.

RECOMMENDED that the reports be accepted.

107. PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE THE REGISTRARS OFFICE AT SHOTTON HALL “SUBJECT TO CONTRACT” TENANT’S

COMPENSATION & THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE TOWN
COUNCIL

Members were circulated with details in relation to the above negotiations.

RECOMMENDED that further developments be awaited.

108. EXHIBITION OF TESCO PLANS FOR A NEW STORE &
LIBRARY – BURNHOPE WAY, PETERLEE, 3RD NOVEMBER
2009

Members were invited to attend a public exhibition to view the plans for a new store and library and to meet the representatives from Tesco who would answer any questions on the development.

RECOMMENDED any Member available go along to this presentation along with the Town Clerk.

109. CONSULTATION: PROPER ACCOUNTING PRACTICES – SORP
REPLACEMENT

The Town Clerk advised that CiPFA/LASAAC SORP Board had agreed the disapplication of IFRS and SORP for all Parish & Town Councils from 1st April 2009. This was to be replaced by a FRSSE, (Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Entities) based standard. Training had been offered on this to be held on 24th November 2009 in London. The Town Clerk asked for authority for the Management Accountancy Assistant to attend this training.

RECOMMENDED that this course of action be agreed.

110. TRAINING EVENT FOR PARISH COUNCILS – DURHAM
COUNTY STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 11TH NOVEMBER 2009

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Members were circulated with an invitation on behalf of the Chair of the Durham County Councils Standards Committee to attend a training and information event to be held on 11th November 2009 at County Hall, Durham. This would involve a presentation on the Code of Conduct and an overview of the assessment criteria.

RECOMMENDED that two places be reserved on this training for Councillor C Austin and the Town Clerk.