

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMM OF THE 4TH
JANUARY 2010

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 4TH JANUARY 2010

PRESENT: COUN T JONES (CHAIR)

Mesdames: J I Measor, J Black & L Wood

Messrs: C J Metcalfe, D Langan, J Alvey, J Hardy, H Bennett
MBE, G Cowie & R Huitson

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

135. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted and approved on behalf of
Councillors R Jones, (family problems), E W Hall, (in London), S
McDonnell, (flu), R Kyle, (personal), C Robbins, (injured leg), W M
Jeffrey, (flu), D & M Milsom, (illness).

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

Matters Arising

(i) Minute Number 122 - Seaham Town Council – Networking
Event – Friday 29th January 2010 – Invitation to Attend - Reminder

(ii) Minute Number 127 - Visit 2010 – Nordenham – Length of
Stay

To note the travel dates remain as originally agreed.

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(iii) Minute Number 131 - Proposed Relocation of Peterlee Register Office – Date for a meeting of the Shotton Hall Sub Committee
RECOMMENDED that a meeting of the Shotton Hall Sub Committee be convened on Tuesday 9th February 2010.

137. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE MEETING OF 17TH DECEMBER 2009 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed. Staff were complimented on the accuracy of the accounts.

138. LARGER LOCAL COUNCIL FORUM – FUTURE MEETING DATES – 12TH FEBRUARY, 14TH MAY, 13TH AUGUST & 12TH NOVEMBER 2010, (PETERLEE)

Members were circulated with dates of future meetings of the Larger Local Forums and permission was requested for Peterlee to host the meeting in November.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted and permission be given for the meeting to be held on 12th November 2010 at Peterlee Town Council.

139. CHARTER ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN ALL LOCAL COUNCILS & PARISH MEETINGS & DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL – DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL CHARTER SIGNING CEREMONY, SATURDAY 16TH JANUARY 2010 AT 10.00AM COUNTY HALL

Members were circulated with details of the Charter arrangements that had been developed to establish a new and improved working relationship between the two tiers of local government in County Durham. An invitation was extended to the launch of the Charter to be held on Saturday 16th January 2010 at 10.00am, County Hall.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted, and the Mayor represent the Town Council at the Charter Signing Event to be held on 16th January 2010.

140. MINUTES OF THE CASTLE EDEN DENE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 13TH NOVEMBER 2009, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were accepted. There were three items raised from the minutes; ideas for raising money for the Education budget; voting rights – there had never been a vote in over 20 year of the Consultative Committee operating and the matter of trees being felled in the Hatfield Place area.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk make investigations on the tree felling and advise the Member directly.

141. PUBLIC CONSULTATION – SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2011/12

Members were circulated with details on this public consultation.

RECOMMENDED that the details on the admission to Community and Voluntary Controlled Sixth Forms be obtained and this matter be further considered at the Parks & Cemetery Meeting.

142. INFORMATION FROM NALC CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Members were circulated with details of the latest NALC Chairman and Chief Executive's report which were being presented to the NALC National Council Meeting to be held in London on 15th December. Both reports were an update of NALC activities on behalf of the Local Council Sector.

It was reported the review of Standing Orders for Local Councils was nearly complete and when published would be available free of charge to all Councils. The Town Clerk advised when these were received he

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would prepare a new draft Standing Orders for consideration and approval of Council.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

143. DURHAM ASSOCIATION NEWS, ISSUE 28, DECEMBER 2009

Members were circulated with the Winter edition of this publication.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

144. RESIDENT'S SURVEY 2009

Members were circulated with an overview of responses from the recent resident's survey. Details of what the residents saw as the major issues, together with details of neighbourhood satisfaction on changes in their neighbourhood; resident's views on their ability to influence decisions, accessibility of the Town Council and Councillors, and Town Council communications. A more detailed report giving the analysis of the responses at ward level would be submitted to a future meeting.

RECOMMENDED that a further report be awaited.

145. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2010/11, 2011/12 & 2012/13

The Town Clerk circulated this draft document for initial consideration by Members and asked for any comments before it was submitted for final approval.

RECOMMENDED that the estimates of expenditure and income be considered at the Parks & Cemetery Committee.

146. 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.

147. STOCKTAKE 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. One of the Members expressed his concern that the gross profit for Shotton Hall appeared to be reducing and during discussions it was suggested that The Pavilion needed additional promotion. It was suggested that this also be discussed with our beverage suppliers

RECOMMENDED that the reports be accepted and the Town Clerk look into the items given by Members.

148. INTERNAL AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS 2010/11 – OFFERS TO PROVIDE THE SERVICE

The Town Clerk advised that he had received several expressions of interest in providing an internal audit service for the Town Council and he intended preparing a full report for consideration at a future meeting.

RECOMMENDED that a further report be awaited.