

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> MARCH 2010

PRESENT: COUN T JONES (CHAIR)

Mesdames: L Wood, J I Measor, J Black, M Milsom  
& S McDonnell

Messrs: H Bennett MBE, J Alvey, W M Jeffrey, G Cowie,  
D Langan, D Milsom, C J Metcalfe, C Robbins, E W Hall,  
C Austin & J Hardy

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

163. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were submitted.

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

Matters Arising

(i) Minute Number 154 – Royal Garden Party

To confirm the Council decision that Councillor Hall be nominated to  
attend. The Leader advised the draw for places was to take place on  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010 at Eldon.

(ii) Minute Number 156 – Notification to Parish & Town Councils  
Concerning Complaints about their Members and the Standards  
Committee

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMM OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup>  
MARCH 2010

The Town Clerk advised given his concerns and that of other Clerks, Steve Ragg of the County Association was taking this matter up with the National Association.

**RECOMMENDED that progress be awaited.**

165. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE MEETING OF 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2010 copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

166. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2010, was agreed.

167. REVISED CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Members were circulated with a copy of information relating to an update with this document.

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

168. NEIEP MEMBER & SENIOR OFFICER BRIEFING – ESCOs: WHAT, WHY, WHEN AND HOW BIG? – TUESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2010, DURHAM COUNTY CRICKET CLUB, CHESTER LE STREET

Consideration was given to the invitation received to attend this event.

**RECOMMENDED that this invitation be not accepted.**

169. SHAPE OUR EQUALITY SCHEME – MONDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2010, 11AM – 3PM, GLEBE CENTRE, MURTON

Consideration was given to the invitation received to attend this event.

A Local Member expressed his concern that such seminars covering the East Durham area were not being held centrally. Another Member felt that holding these seminars during the day discriminated against those Members who worked during the day.

**RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk make these comments known to the organisers of the event.**

170. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS - QUALITY COUNCIL LEARNING SEMINAR – TUESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2010, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

Consideration was given to the invitation received to attend this event.

**RECOMMENDED that a joint presentation be made with Seaham Town Council at this seminar incorporating a visit to The Pavilion, Peterlee and the new cemetery at Seaham.**

171. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL - PARISH & TOWN COUNCILS CONFERENCE, MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2010 FROM 3.30PM, AT COUNTY HALL DURHAM

Consideration was given to the invitation received to attend this event.

**RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk find out if there were any restrictions on the number of Councillors attending from each Council.**

172. NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER, PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2010 – PUBLIC FOOTPATHS AT FAIRBURN ROAD

Members were circulated with details of this Order.

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

173. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS - MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING OF THE LARGER LOCAL COUNCILS COMMITTEE OF THE 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2010, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were received.

The Leader explained he had stood down as Vice Chair of this Committee because of his present health, but remained on the Committee. He was pleased to advise that Councillor Harrington from Spennymoor Town Council had been appointed as Vice Chair.

In relation to working with Unitary Authorities, Local Members expressed their concerns regarding Winter gritting arrangements. Whilst appreciating this had been a severe Winter, none the less the Unitary Council should not be in a position of gritting only the major 20 roads in the County. It was suggested a strong letter of concern be sent to Durham County Council, but the Town Clerk asked if this matter could be given further consideration at the Parks & Cemetery Meeting as he had a further report to submit in relation to Winter Maintenance.

**RECOMMENDED that further consideration be given to this matter at the Parks & Cemetery Committee.**

174. COVENANT OF MAYORS EVENT – 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2010, CHESTER LE STREET

Members were circulated with a copy of the delegate's report following their attendance at this event. Notes from the event were also circulated.

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

175. AUDIT COMMISSION – JOINT PRACTITIONERS ADVISORY GROUP - PROPOSED ACCOUNTING PRACTICES FOR LARGER LOCAL COUNCILS

The Town Clerk had circulated to Members for their information this Accounting Guidance. It was highlighted this was the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities which should be simpler than the current SORP requirements. This would depend very much, however, on how these requirements were implemented by the Audit Commission.

**RECOMMENDED that the document be received.**

176. 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.

177. 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.

A Local Member expressed the view that the most recent figures indicated an improvement in the income at the Football Club which he was delighted with. The Leader reiterated this view, but also expressed his concerns over the level of income being achieved at The Pavilion. He expressed the view that not enough effort was being put in to try and increase the income from the “wet side”, and ideas for improving the situation were just not coming forward, or possibly such suggestions were being stifled.

A Local Member also expressed the view that the Facilities staff at the Pavilion, for their own existence, needed to address this as a matter of urgency.

The Town Clerk advised that at the next Management Board meeting he anticipated that a list of suggestions would be available for the Board's consideration.

A Local Member said she understood that residents viewed The Pavilion more as a facility for activities and sport, rather than a drinking establishment, and the Council may need to review the promotion of this building.

**RECOMMENDED that the reports be accepted.**

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED that this matter be discussed further at the Management Board meeting to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2010.**

178. HELFDOR ROAD PETERLEE – PROVISION OF REPLACEMENT PITCH

The Town Clerk had circulated to Members a plan showing the latest proposals for the replacement pitch at Helford Road received from the developers. He also advised Members of discussions he had recently had with Durham County Officers regarding Public Open Space areas on the site. The Clerk had also held discussions on the proposals with representatives of the football and rugby teams who confirmed, with the exception of some minor matters, the proposals were acceptable to them.

**RECOMMENDED that the proposals of the developer as set out in the Plan SKI-106 dated February 2010, are acceptable to the Town Council.**

179. NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL – RESPONSE FROM NORTH EAST EMPOWERMENT PARTNERSHIP & COMMUNITIES

The Town Clerk had circulated to Members an e mail from the North East Empowerment Partnership advising they were unable to grant aid

the Council's proposal due to the lack of funding, although they were still keen to find out more about the Council's work and the proposal.

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

180. SHOTTON HALL – WATER PENETRATION IN THE ANNEXE BLOCK

The Town Clerk reported that there was serious water ingress in part of the Annexe Block at Shotton Hall and as a result, following consultation with the Leader, he had agreed that the current licence holders move immediately to Meeting Room Number 3 which was currently vacant.

The Town Clerk requested authority to licence this room to the School Sports Co-Ordinators until July 2011 at a rental of £3,600 per annum. The School Sports Co-Ordinators had agreed should the necessary repairs be carried out they would be prepared to move back into the Annexe Block.

**RECOMMENDED that the Schools Sports Co-Ordinators be given a licence to occupy Meeting Room Number 3, Shotton Hall until July 2011, at an annual rental of £3,600 plus vat.**

181. A PROUD LEGACY – THE DISTRICT OF EASINGTON 1974-2009

The Town Clerk advised Members of receipt of this publication from Councillor Alan Napier.

**RECOMMENDED that the book be received.**