

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE
ON MONDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2011

PRESENT: COUN L WOOD (CHAIR)

Mesdames: M Milsom & J I Measor

Messrs: C Austin, C Robbins, H Bennett (MBE), J Alvey, D
Langan, W M Jeffrey, C J Metcalfe, R Huitson & C Watkins

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

59. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted and accepted from Councillors
R w Jones, (wife ill), E W Hall, (ill), S McDonnell, (on holiday), J
Hardy, (Meeting) and G Cowie, (ill).

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

61. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE 20TH OCTOBER 2011 a copy of which had been circulated
to each Member, were agreed. It was requested that a balance sheet
be prepared for the Halloween Event.
**RECOMMENDED that a balance sheet for the Halloween Event
be prepared and presented to the next meeting.**

62. DIS EXTRA – NALC’S DIRECTION INFORMATION SERVICE –
ISSUE 770

Issues included in this bulletin were:- Community Planning;
Government Launches renewable heat premium payment scheme;
heritage, localism & the Big Society; £150m boost for mobile signals;
Eric Pickles publishes final data transparency code for councils;
Auditors rap 29 parish councils; Ministers bid to ease fears over
business role in neighbourhood plans.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted.

63. EAST DURHAM CREDIT UNION – REQUEST TO ATTEND A
FUTURE MEETING

**RECOMMENDED an invitation be extended to a representative
of the East Durham Credit Union to attend a future meeting.**

64. 65TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NALC, 19TH OCTOBER
2011 – REPORT OF THE DELEGATE

RECOMMENDED that the report be accepted.

65. EAST DURHAM ASSOCIATION OF PARISH & TOWN
COUNCILS, MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20TH
SEPTEMBER 2011

**RECOMMENDED that details of the Durham Illuminaire, (mini
luminaires at Shotton Hall in November) be obtained.**

66. REPORT FROM THE MEETING OF THE CDALC AGM HELD
ON 29TH OCTOBER 2011

A copy of the Leader’s report following his attendance at this meeting
was circulated to each Member.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

67. AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT
RELATING TO THE CARERS ALLOWANCE CONTAINED
WITHIN THE WELFARE REFORM BILL – LETTER FROM MP

Members were circulated with a copy of a reply received from Grahame Morris, MP. Members were extremely concerned that this piece of legislation seemed to target the vulnerable and the poor and was not acceptable.

RECOMMENDED that further progress be awaited.

68. THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE BEACONS – THE GUIDE
TO TAKING PART

Members considered the information received in this regard. Due to the cost, insurance, topography and risk implications, it was **RECOMMENDED that the Town Council would not take part in the beacon scheme to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.**

69. THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DURHAM, (NORTH DURHAM;
DERWENTSIDE, CHESTER LE STREET & EASINGTON) (CIVIL
ENFORCEMENT AREA & SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT AREA)
(TRAFFIC ORDERS AMENDMENTS) ORDER 2011

And

COMMENCEMENT OF CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT IN
NORTH DURHAM

Consideration was given to the information received with regard to these two items. It was suggested a response be made to this consultation making reference to problems with school gate parking; parking on grass verges and cars travelling across green areas to park near their homes. It was also asked how many CPE/Attendants Officers would be patrolling the Town.

RECOMMENDED that the Clerk respond to these documents as agreed.

70. INVITATION TO SUNDERLAND DOGS – FRIDAY 18TH
NOVEMBER 2011

RECOMMENDED that these invitations be passed to staff to use should they wish to.

71. AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP FORUM DATES FOR
NOVEMBER 2011

Members were circulated with dates of the AAP meetings to be held in November.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted.

72. APPOLLO PAVILION COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

RECOMMENDED that an invitation be extended for a representative of the Association to come along to a future meeting as requested.

73. PETERLEE & NORDENHAM FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

Consideration was given to a letter received from this Group offering to assist the Town Council with the Twinning arrangements.

RECOMMENDED that this offer be considered further at the budget preparation meetings currently being held.

74. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC
IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE
FOLLOWING ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED, THE COMMITTEE
IS ASKED TO PASS THE FORMAL RESOLUTION TO
EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING,
PURSUANT TO THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO
MEETINGS) ACT, 1961 & THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
(ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985.

75. LICENSED PREMISES

(a) STOCKTAKE SUMMARY SHEET 27TH SEPTEMBER 2011

Members were circulated with a copy of stock take sheets for the licensed premises belonging to the Town Council.

RECOMMENDED that the stock take reports be accepted, and that the urgent action taken by the Town Clerk regarding the stocktake results be supported and fully endorsed and a further report be awaited on this matter.

(b) PURCHASE OF NEW TILLS

RECOMMENDED that the action taken by the Town Clerk in purchasing four new tills, be endorsed.

76. PARKING RESTRICTIONS – PETERLEE TOWN CENTRE

Members were circulated with a letter received from a person working in the town centre objecting to the parking charges being levied in the Town. This issue had been discussed previously and it was agreed that perhaps the Town centre management should have considered staggering the price introduced for parking and also there should be concessions for disabled persons.

RECOMMENDED the Town Clerk make representations to the Town Centre owners on the parking charges and also the support of the MP be enlisted.

77. TOWN CENTRE CLOCK

Consideration was give to the report of the Deputy Town Clerk in this regard. In considering the bell it was suggested that the bell should be retained and investigations be made into any heritage funding that may be available form the AAP for a scheme to incorporate the bell.

RECOMMENDED the bell be made safe with acro propos until funding streams for a heritage scheme incorporating the bell, could be identified.

78. CRICKET CLUB

A Local Member made a point that matters had been discussed at another meeting, that had not been formally agreed by the Town Council. This was accepted and an assurance was given that any comments made would be retracted by the Member concerned. This course of action was accepted.

RECOMMENDED that the future of the building be discussed at a future meeting. The Town Clerk to prepare a detailed report on the options available

79. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LARGER LOCAL COUNCILS

Councillor Jeffrey asked for approval to stand for nomination to this organisation. It would be at no cost to the Town Council and he would be representing both the Town and the North East.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Council support Councillor Jeffrey in standing for nomination to NALLC.