

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup>  
JANUARY 2013

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2013

PRESENT: COUN R KYLE (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- M Milsom, J Black & L Wood

Messrs:- D Milsom, L Cook, C Austin, W M Jeffrey, H Bennett  
MBE, J Alvey, C Watkins, E W Hall, R Huitson, C J Metcalfe,  
T A Jones & D Langan

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

**Prior to the start of the meeting the Mayor and Chairman expressed his  
best wishes to all for the New Year.**

108. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted and accepted from Councillors  
J I Measor, (personal) and G Cowie, (ill).

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

110. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE MEETING  
OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2012 a copy of which had been circulated  
to each Member, were accepted.

111. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS - East Durham Association of Town & Parish Councils of the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2012 the draft notes from this meeting, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were noted.

112. COUNCIL TAX BASE

- (i) Presentation given at the Larger Town & Parish Councils Meeting

Members were circulated with a copy of the presentation made by the County Council at a recent meeting of the Larger Local Councils on the effects of the changes in government funding that would in turn affect parishes.

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

- (ii) Notification of Tax Base & Request for Precept 2013/14

Members were circulated with copies of the letter received from Durham County Council giving the specific amounts involved in the changes being implemented. Members asked for clarification on the precept on the aspect that it was his understanding that the entire precept was requested from the rate payers of the Town. It was asked with this grant scheme would this still be the case.

**RECOMMENDED a Special Meeting be held to determine the level of precept to be requested and the Town Clerk clarify the issue relating to the new grant being received.**

113. STADT NORDENDHAM – LETTER OF BEST WISHES

Members were circulated with a letter received from the win Town of Nordenham, Germany sending their best wishes.

**RECOMMENDED the letter be received.**

114. COMMUNITY PANELS – TO MONITOR LOCAL POLICING AND CRIME ISSUES

Members were circulated with an invitation for representatives from parish and town councils to become part of the 50 strong panel for each of the 7 panels identified in the correspondence. The Police & Crime Commissioner for Durham, Mr Ron Hogg, had decided to establish a series of Community Panels to monitor local policing and crime issues and represent community safety needs of the localities that made up their area. In addition the Groups would appoint community champions to represent the views of various sectors.

**RECOMMENDED that the following Councillors be nominated to represent the Town Council on the Panel:-**

- (i) Councillor J Alvey**
- (ii) Councillor H Bennett MBE**
- (iii) Councillor C J Metcalfe, and**
- (iv) Councillor W M Jeffrey.**

115. REGISTERABLE INTEREST FORMS

Members were circulated with a letter received from Durham County Council giving the details of the information that was now posted on the County Council web site in relation to the registration of individual Member's interests.

**RECOMMENDED the information given be noted.**

116. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED, THE COMMITTEE PASSED 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.

117. DONATIONS & CONCESSIONARY USE APPLICATIONS

Consideration was given to the following requests for donations or concessionary use of the Town Council's facilities:-

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(a) Holocaust Memorial Day, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2013 - Donation

**RECOMMENDED a donation of £55.00 be agreed and plenary powers be granted for this payment to be processed at the Finance Sub Committee on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2013.**

(b) Seaham Day Centre, Awareness of Alzheimers, Shotton Hall, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2013

**RECOMMENDED free use of Shotton Hall Banqueting Suites be agreed for this event.**

(c) Horizon, Weekly Art Class, Eden Lane

**RECOMMENDED concessionary use of Eden Lane be agreed in principle, subject to the relevant insurance, health & safety and staffing issues being clarified.**

(d) County of Durham School Benevolent Fund - Donation

**RECOMMENDED this request be considered further at the Council Meeting.**

118. STOCK REPORTS PERIOD ENDING 23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 2012

(A) Shotton Hall

(B) The Pavilion

Consideration was given to the stock reports received for the licensed premises. It was asked if training was provided by the brewery. This was not known and would be investigated. It was also noted there was reference to goods received free of charge for the Christmas period and further detail was requested.

**RECOMMENDED the reports be accepted and further information be obtained on the queries given.**

119. USAGE REPORTS

(a) Shotton Hall

(b) The Pavilion

Consideration was given to the usage reports for both Shotton Hall and The Pavilion. The staffing of the facilities was questioned and

assurances were given that this issue was to be fully addressed in the Structure Report.

**RECOMMENDED that the usage reports be accepted.**

120. FENCING – HELFORD ROAD

Members considered the report of the Sports Development Officer in relation to this proposed fencing.

**RECOMMENDED:-**

- (i) the recommendation made at the Parks & Cemetery Meeting of the 10<sup>th</sup> December, be amended and a letter not be sent to Mr Laverick or the Rugby League, as detailed in the report;**
- (ii) approval be given for the fencing to be ordered and installed with Kraftwerkx, at the cost as given in the earlier report.**

121. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT – CREDITORS PAYMENTS

A copy of the report of the Internal Auditor following consideration of the Town Council's system in relation to the payment of creditors was circulated for all Members.

**RECOMMENDED the contents of the report be accepted and the observation that consideration be made to use on line payments as the preferred method of payments for the Council be noted.**