

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2014

PRESENT: COUN G COWIE (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- K Liddell, L Wood & V Watson

Messrs:- S Miles, W M Jeffrey, C Watkins, L Cook, R Kyle, C
J Metcalfe & A Watson

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

In the absence of both the Chair and Vice Chair it was agreed that
Councillor G Cowie should take the Chair.

74. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been previously submitted and accepted from
Councillor Baty and Councillor Thompson, (ill). Further apologies
had now been received from Councillor D Sillito and K Liddell,
(Work commitments) and J Alvey, (on holiday).

**RECOMMENDED the Council approve the reasons submitted
for absence received from Councillors C Baty, D Sillito, K Liddell
and J Alvey, on the grounds given above, and their apologies for
absence be recorded. FURTHER RECOMMENDED that
Councillor Thompson's apologies not be accepted.**

75. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING a copy of which had been previously circulated, were approved.
76. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 20TH NOVEMBER 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was approved.
77. COUNTY DURHAM ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS – VARIOUS ITEMS
- (i) Biggest ever crackdown on flytipping launched
 - (ii) Enforcement Policy Consultation
 - (iii) Larger Local Councils Forum Meeting, 21 November 2014
 - (iv) Draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment – current provision of pharmacy services across County Durham
 - (v) Road Traffic accident mapping of interest
 - (vi) Bulletin from the Scrutiny Panel
 - (vii) Quality Status move to Local Council Award Scheme
 - (viii) DCLG MP's speech to NALC AGM
 - (ix) Local Government Transparency Code
 - (x) East Durham Association of Parish & Town Councils Meeting – 9th December 2014
 - (xi) Durham Association News, Issue 50

RECOMMENDED the information given in the various releases, bulletins and updates be noted.

78. PETERLEE YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Members were circulated with an e mail from a student living in the Town expressing an interest in wanting to participate more in politics and encourage more young people to engage in politics with perhaps a Youth Parliament. Councillor Cook explained that this student had contacted him directly and he was to meet with him shortly. It was asked that Councillor Cook keep the Council updated on progress.

RECOMMENDED the information given, be noted.

79. CITIZENS ADVICE COUNTY DURHAM

Members were circulated with copies of letters sent to the CAB requesting the Council's views and advising that this matter was to be discussed at the next meeting of the Easington Area Association of Parish & Town Councils.

RECOMMENDED progress with the issues raised in the correspondence, be noted.

80. TERMS OF REFERENCE – PAYROLL AUDIT

Members were circulated with the terms of reference for this internal audit report.

RECOMMENDED the information given, be noted and the report be awaited.

81. BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS – 2015/16

The Deputy Town Clerk circulated for Member's consideration copies of spreadsheets giving the expected income that could be raised should the Council decide to increase the level of precept requested and examples were given ranging from 1.99% to 4.99%. Members were advised that Managers were currently preparing their service budgets and it was hoped to present this to Members for their consideration shortly.

RECOMMENDED progress with the budget for 2015/16 be awaited.

82. 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, 1960 & THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985.

83. STOCK REPORTS PERIODS ENDING 6TH NOVEMBER 2014

- (A) Shotton Hall
- (B) The Pavilion

Consideration was given to the stock reports for the above period for all of the Town Councils licensed premises.

RECOMMENDED that the reports be accepted.

84. EDEN LANE NEWTOWN PITCH

- (i) Floodlights urgent repair

Members were circulated with a report prepared by the Horticultural Supervisor regarding urgent work required to the flood lights at the Newtown Ground. Following considerable discussion it was **RECOMMENDED this report be re considered at the Parks & Cemetery Committee when the Officer would be in attendance to answer further questions in relation to tenders etc for this work.**

- (ii) South Shields FC

Members were circulated with a copy of the note of a meeting held with South Shields FC on 14th November 2014 where there was an update on the progression with South Shields FC in terms of the football ground and an update on work carried out at the Eden Lane football ground. It was reported South Shields had offered to work in partnership with the Town Council to carry out work on the ground and the building on an arrangement whereby if the Town Council supplied the materials, South Shields could provide the labour. South Shields also mentioned a sponsor who may be able to assist with the metal works within the ground that needed replacing.

RECOMMENDED Members be kept updated with progress at the Eden Lane ground.

85. TERMS OF REFERENCE – PAYROLL AUDIT

Members were circulated with a copy of correspondence received in relation to work carried out previously by the Internal Auditor and NEREO.

RECOMMENDED the information given, be noted.

86. TOWN CLERK'S GRIEVANCE

The Deputy Town Clerk circulated around the meeting a letter in the above regard.

RECOMMENDED the letter be received.

87. PETERLEE NORDENHAM FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

Members were circulated with a request from the Association with for a Twinning Meeting regarding changes to officers of the Association that were made at their meeting on 11th November 2014, and the letter detailed the changes that had taken place.

RECOMMENDED the letter be received only and it was agreed a meeting was not needed as the letter notified the Town Council of the changes that had occurred within the Association.