

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF PETERLEE
TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL,
PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 17TH JULY 2006

PRESENT: COUN R KYLE (CHAIR)
Mesdames: M Milsom & J I Measor

Messrs: T Jones, A Geldard, B Scott, G
Calvert, W M Jeffrey, C J Metcalfe, E W
Hall, R Huitson, D Milsom, R Curtis, H
Bennett MBE & D Coates

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

58. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors M
A Cartwright, A E Laing, G Cowie & C Robbins.

59. COMMISIONING A PATIENT LED NHS – CONFIGURATION
UPDATE

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Dr R Bolas, Chief
Executive and Carole Langrick, Interim Chief Executive,
Easington PCT.

Dr Bolas spoke about him leaving the Easington PCT and he asked
that his sincere thanks to the Town Council for their support be
placed on record. He then introduced Carole Lagrick who would
be taking over from him on or around 1st October 2006.

The purpose and context of the presentation to Members was as
follows:-





- To inform and explain the option being developed to manage the new PCT arrangements in County Durham and Darlington;
- To invite feedback from the Town Council and comments on these options.

The presentation outlined the high level functional design of the new management arrangements agreed with the SHA.

Details were given on the reconfiguration in County Durham and what was planned. It was stressed that service users must not be put at risk and should see improved services.

Information was given on the design principles for the new management arrangements, strategic commissioning and performance management, along with strategic finance, public health providers and centrally managed support services. The importance of localities was stressed with provider teams still operating and being based in localities but being separately managed.

Ms Langrick requested any questions/comments or feedback from Members and Members asked several questions. Dr Bolas stressed the need to ask for information and if the Town Council was not satisfied with the information that came into the public domain to ask for further information from the PCT. Members did ask that they be notified of who the new Board members would be when appointed.

The Chairman thanked the representatives for their attendance.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

60. POLICE UPDATE

The Police representatives gave an update on crime in the Town. They gave detail of high visibility patrols being carried out in the Town and reported on progress on items discussed at previous meetings. Members reported that motorists were continuing to park on the footpaths next to the Methodist Church and asked for the Police to ensure that footpaths were clear and accessible by pedestrians. The Police representatives gave details of changes to the Local Team. The Police reported that they had received



positive feedback from a resident of Northampton Road with a noticeable reduction in incidents. A Local Member asked for feedback on recent reports submitted by English Nature following incidents in the Castle Eden Dene National Nature Reserve with air rifles. Sgt Dickinson assured that he would look into this matter and report back to the next meeting.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted,

PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM
COUNCILLORS D COATES, R HUITSON AND J I MEASOR
DECLARED THEIR INTEREST IN THE MATTER AND TOOK
NO PART IN THE VOTING WHICH ENSUED.

61. CONSULTATION DOCUMENT ON THE PROPOSAL TO
BUILD ONE SECONDARY SCHOOL IN PETERLEE

The Chairman welcomed Sheila Palmerly of Durham County Council to the meeting.

The Council Leader also welcomed members of the public to the meeting; he advised them that they could observe but not speak on the subject.

Ms Palmerly spoke about the reason for the proposals and the transformation vision for schools in the County. Phase I looked at projected pupil numbers and if all of the existing schools were needed. Approximately £100 million would be made available to improve schools in this area. Dene Community School of Technology and Shotton Hall School are in this group of schools. Members were circulated with a copy of the proposals which outlined the four options. Durham County Council's preferred option was Option 1. Ms Palmerly did stress, however, that no decision had been made. She ran through the process that would be followed and explained that the School Organization Committee, which was an independent committee, had not met yet and would not do so until the consultation process has been completed. It was explained that the initial consultation period ends on the 28th July 2006, when responses would be collated and put together with a report made to the County Council's Cabinet. Statutory consultation would then follow with a further report to the School Organization Committee for a decision by the end of 2006.

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The Chairman then opened the meeting for questions. Some of the issues raised were as follows:-

Q What educational benefits would come from Option 1?

A A modern school with improved facilities.

Q The new school will have over 1,700 pupils. Q Have you seen a school this size? Are you modelling this on one you have seen already, or one that works?

A No, but there are schools this big and they will be visited to share ideas etc

Q It is the people's choice. Will people be listened to and their opinions/comments taken into account?

A Yes, they will all be reported in full.

Q Have you considered a 5th Option, to combine St Bedes and Shotton Hall Comprehensive Schools on a new site?

A No this had not been considered. If you are against a big school how could you justify this option/size?

Q Are all consultation forms considered?

A Yes. Each one is filed and taken into account.

Q There would be horrific traffic congestion for a school the size proposed with children as young as 11 having to travel from Horden and Blackhall.

A A traffic survey had been carried out and different routes scrutinised to assess the impact on travel to Shotton Hall and the results didn't show that there would be a significant problem. The Town Council were not aware of any of these traffic surveys.

Q Peterlee Regeneration Plan is planning a population increase hoping to take the population up to around 30,000, along with new housing developments.

A Details were given on the numbers/statistics that had been obtained from a study in Seaham, for eg only one new pupil in 100 new houses.

Q Why not have two new schools?

A There is not the funding available to build two new schools.

Q What will happen to the land at Dene House?

A If the preferred option was Number 1 then the land would be declared surplus to requirements and would go through the process of it being offered to other County services. If not required then it would be given to the Estates Section to market.

OTHER QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:-

- Transport will present a problem for children who come from Horden and Blackhall to Dene Community School. The Town Council were unaware of any recent traffic surveys.
- Why was option 4 previously turned down?
- Concern about disruption during the interim period, education should be uninterrupted.
- The Town Council would like a copy of the statistics

The Chairman thanked Ms Palmery for her attendance at the meeting and asked that the statistics discussed be forwarded to the Town Council in due course.

RESOLVED that the Town Council support Option 4, the retention of both Dene Community School and Shotton Hall School.

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

Matters Arising

Minute Number 57 – Formal Review of Southsea Town Council Area, Members were circulated with a copy of a letter received from Portsmouth City Council confirming that Peterlee Town Council's letter of support for the continuation of South Sea Town Council would be considered along with other views submitted.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

63. THE REPORT OF THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE OF THE 19TH JUNE 2006, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.



64. THE REPORT OF THE INTERNAL AUDIT SUB COMMITTEE OF THE 26TH JUNE 2006 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.
65. THE REPORT OF THE SHOW COMMITTEE OF THE 29TH JUNE 2006, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.
Matters Arising
In connection with Minute Number 25(e) Security Requirements, it was reported that a price had been obtained from Events Cover Productions to provide security for the Show at a cost of £5,831.00 plus £3120.00 for the radio communication.
- RESOLVED that approval be given to a booking being made with Events Cover Productions to provide security for this year's Show.**
66. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF 3RD JULY 2006, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.
67. THE REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 3RD JULY 2006, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.
68. THE REPORT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 3RD JULY 2006, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.
69. THE REPORT OF THE HELFORD ROAD WORKING PARTY OF THE 4TH JULY 2006 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.
70. THE REPORT OF THE CLERK'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 10TH JULY 2006, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

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71. THE REPORT OF THE INFORMATION CENTRE COMMITTEE OF THE 10TH JULY 2006, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed, subject to Councillor R Huitson as being shown as in the Chair.

72. THE REPORT OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE HELD ON 10TH JULY 2006, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

Matters Arising

(i) Minute 18c - Shotton Hall – Lighting To The Pole, it was reported that the price of £350.00 was for Bill Priestly to carry out all connections and wiring etc, and for the Town Council to do any digging out necessary.

RESOLVED that approval be given for this work to proceed.

(ii) Minute 18e - Fine Turf, it was reported that the Estates Manager had spoken to Northumbrian Water in view of current water shortage for watering Peterlee Town Football Club, and they will supply a cost for a temporary supply i.e. within 48 hours and permanent supply.

RESOLVED that subject to the costs being reasonable, permission be given to install a temporary water supply at Eden Lane Football Fields.

(iii) Minute 24b - Request To Purchase A Cooker, as requested the Estates Manager had sourced a supplier for the Belling Cooker, for Peterlee Town Football Club, at a cost of £299.00 plus £5.00 delivery, saving £25.00 on the original price.

RESOLVED that approval be given for the cooker to be purchased immediately.

(iv) Minute 25 - Woodhouse Park Toddlers Play Area as requested the Estates Manager contacted Nottingham City Council Parks Department, regarding their experience of the Wicksteed Rainbow Turquoise Units. They have two of these units both of which needed new flooring after approximately 7 to 8 years, both have had their floors replaced with metal chequer plate. They were at present removing one of their Rainbow Turquoise Units from a

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park and the metal decking was in good condition and it was a possibility that the Town Council could purchase this at a cost of £200.00, this would not include delivery and the item would have to be collected from Nottingham. A special tool was also required at a cost of £80.00 - £100.00 and the works could be carried out in house.

RESOLVED that the Estates Manager liaise with the Leader and Chairman of the Parks & Cemetery Committee further on this matter.

73. STOCKTAKE SUMMARY SHEET – SHOTTON HALL – 20th JUNE 2006

Consideration was given to the Stocktaker's Report for the period up to 20TH June 2006.

RESOLVED that the Stocktaker's report be received.

74. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Details of the planning applications relating to Peterlee, which had been submitted to the District of Easington, had been circulated to each Member for consideration. Additional applications had been received since compilation of the Agenda and a list had been circulated to each Member.

RESOLVED that no objections be submitted on the applications given.

75. TOWN & PARISH STANDARD:07

Members were circulated with a copy of the latest issue/newsletter from the Standards Board. Members were asked to note the item relating to the declaration of interests, which gave guidance on prejudicial interests and dual hatted Members.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.



76. LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME

Members were circulated with a copy of information relating to important issues affecting the Local Government Pension Scheme on additional voluntary contributions; flexible retirement; consultation on draft regulations and consultation on changes to the compensation regulations.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

77. LOCAL VISION CONFERENCE – 1ST to 2ND JUNE 2006 – DELEGATE'S REPORT

Members were circulated with a copy of the Delegate's Report following attendance at this Conference.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

78. RIDGEMOUNT HOUSE, PETERLEE

Members were circulated with a copy of a letter from a local resident regarding Ridgemount House and the impact this is having on the appearance of the Town. The Town Clerk had written back to Mrs Slater confirming that a pre contract meeting was being held on the 13th July 2006, with the contractor requiring a 3 week lead in period and works taking approximately 12 weeks to complete on site. The anticipated completion date was 18th October 2006.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

79. LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

The Deputy Town Clerk reported letters of thanks and appreciation from Mrs P Boyes and Mrs W Colman.

RESOLVED that the letters be received.

R/S

80. YOUTH PROVISION – LETTER FROM THE RESIDENT’S GROUP OF DENEHOUSE & CHAPEL HILL SOUTH

Members were circulated with a letter received from the above Group requesting the Town Council’s consideration to jointly provide with the District Council a five a side football venue and for the Town Council to run Summer Playschemes once again for a trial period.

The Deputy Town Clerk had contacted the District of Easington and gave Members details of their Summer Schools Out Schemes. The Leader, whilst fully appreciating the suggestions made by the Resident’s Association, confirmed that the Town Council’s main focus was the Helford Road Project and at the moment, unless successful grant applications were forthcoming, the Council could not look to fund any other major schemes. Also, prior to any scheme being considered the Town Council would need to investigate and consult fully on possible areas for a multi use/five a side area.

RESOLVED that these sentiments be expressed to the Secretary of the Resident’s Association.

81. MACHINERY DEMONSTRATION -LONDONDERRY GARAGE, SCOTCH CORNER, WEDNESDAY 19TH JULY 2006

The Estates Manager requested permission for two members of staff to attend a machinery demonstration on Wednesday 19th July 2006.

RESOLVED that permission be granted for two staff to attend.

82. PETERLEE TOWN CENTRE

A Local Member had received a letter of complaint from a resident of Peterlee about the cleanliness of Peterlee Town Centre. In the letter there was a reference to “part of the town centre being the responsibility of the Town Council”. The Town Council does not own any part of the Centre.

RESOLVED that the Town Council write to the Town Centre owners about this matter.

83. PETER LEE'S GRAVE

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that following from at the Cultural Day discussions had taken place between Win Colman and Councillor Nicholls of Wheatley Hill Parish Council. Wheatley Hill Parish Council have agreed to restore Peterlee Lee's grave in Wheatley Hill grave yard.

RESOLVED that a letter of thanks and appreciation be forwarded to Wheatley Hill Parish Council.

84. PPI FORUM REPORT LAUNCH: MONITORING COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINICS

Members were circulated with details of this launch that was to take place on Friday 21st July 2006 at the Information Centre, Peterlee.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

85. LETTER SENT BY RUTH KELLY TO THE PRIME MINISTER

Members were circulated with a copy of a letter sent by Rt Hon Ruth Kelly, MP to Bellingham (Lewisham) to the Prime Minister in response to his letter to her. She was quoted as saying "*But as we learn more from the good practice which exists in local government and in our communities themselves, we can go further. I will set out my plans for making this happen in the White Paper which I will publish in the Autumn. One thing is clear already. I think we have reached a tipping point in the debate about devolution and we must now devolve to and from the town hall.*"

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

86. LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader mentioned several items within his report.

He asked for all Member's support with spending time on the Town Council's stand over the Show weekend.

He asked for the junior goal posts to be taken down at Eden Lane as a matter of urgency due to a long strip of concrete that had been discovered which was showing through the grass because of the dry weather. He referred to the condition of the football fields, particularly at Eden Lane. He also asked that it be ensured that new graves were "topped up" even more regularly because of the dry weather conditions.

He reminded Members of the date of the Summer Parks Inspection- Saturday 19th August 2006 and asked Members to take part.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted and action be taken where indicated.

