

THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF PETERLEE  
TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL,  
PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006

PRESENT: COUN R KYLE (CHAIR)  
Mesdames: M Milsom, A E Laing & J I  
Measor

Messrs: T Jones, B Scott, G Calvert, W M  
Jeffrey, C J Metcalfe, E W Hall, R Huitson,  
R Curtis, D Coates, C Robbins & G Cowie

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

116. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors M A  
Cartwright, R Jones, D Milsom & B Joyce.

117. POLICE UPDATE

The Police representatives gave an update on crime in the Town.  
They gave details of high visibility patrols being carried out in the  
Town and reported on progress on items discussed at previous  
meetings. It was reported that the biggest problem was that of  
criminal damage and anti social behaviour with the worst affected  
area being Edenhill. The Town Clerk advised that he was in  
discussions with the Police on how to tackle problems currently being  
experienced at the Cemetery and Woodhouse Park.

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 continued practice of taxis driving without due care and attention and parking indiscriminately was also highlighted. A Local Member gave details of a recent incident next to his home and asked for feedback after the meeting.

**RESOLVED that the information given, be noted,**

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

Matters Arising

- (i) Minute Number 88 – Special Meeting with the Police to be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2006, the Town Clerk circulated a note of the meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

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

- (ii) Minute Number 91 – Charity Physic/Indian Head Massage Evening, **RESOLVED that this type of event not be organised by the Town Council and this be the Council's adopted Policy.**

- (iii) Minute Number 98 – Association – Association of Larger Local Councils Executive Committee Meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> September the Leader gave a report following his and the Town Clerk's attendance at this meeting. It had been concluded to dissolve the Association of Larger Local Councils Committee.

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

119. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REPORT FOR PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL – AUDIT 2005/2006

The Chairman welcomed Mr Paul Heppell and Ms Cathie Eddowes from the Audit Commission to the meeting. Mr Heppell then went on to take Members through the report giving the background to it in layman's terms.

He outlined the purpose of the report; the key messages and main thrust of the audit work. He reported that the Council had been given an unqualified audit opinion. New for this year was a second opinion based on value for money. The value for money conclusion was an

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“except for” opinion in one area that of risk management. Mr Heppell did confirm however that on consultation with other District Audit colleagues out of the 41 Best Value Town/Parish Councils, “except for” opinions were likely to be the norm. The Town Clerk reported that some risk management training had taken place in the past, involving both Members and Officers but accepted that this needed to be developed further to meet the new requirements. A Local Member suggested that as this was likely to be a common issue amongst the larger Parish/Town Councils in the County that this could be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting of the Durham Association of Local Councils to seek a way forward. It was also suggested the matter could be raised at a national level via the National Association of Local Councils.

**RESOLVED that this course of action be followed.**

119. THE REPORT OF THE MAYOR’S COMMITTEE OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2006, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

Matters Arising

**RESOLVED that Members be contacted when volunteers were required for fund raising activities.**

120. THE REPORT OF THE SHOW COMMITTEE OF THE 24<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2006, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

Matters Arising

It was reported that a further credit had been received along with a letter of apology from William Leith Marquee Hire.

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

121. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

Matters Arising

(i) Minute Number 59 – Nominations for Positions on the Executive

- of County Durham Association of Local Councils, it was  
**RESOLVED that Councillor Audrey Laing be nominated for a position on the Executive Committee of the County Durham Association of Local Councils.**
122. THE REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.
123. THE REPORT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.  
Matters Arising  
Minute Number 19 - Review Of The Town Council's Smoking Policy – Membership of the Working Party & PCT Stop Smoking Service  
**RESOLVED that the Working Party consist of:-**  
**Councillors W M Jeffrey, A Laing, D Milsom, M Milsom, R Curtis and R Kyle.**
124. THE REPORT OF THE CLERK'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.  
Matters Arising  
(i) Minute Number 25 Members Learning & Development, Half Day Events (am) To Be Held At County Hall, Durham (a) Speaking in Public, Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2006 and (d) The Member and the Media, Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2006  
**RESOLVED Councillors D and M Milsom be given approval to attend the above two courses on the Town Council's behalf.**
- (ii) Minute Number 26 - Representation On The Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder Partnership Board  
**RESOLVED that Councillor M Milsom represent the Council on the above Board.**

125. THE REPORT OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE HELD ON 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

Matters Arising

- (i) Minute Number 18(b) Shutters at Woodhouse Park, a report on the matter was circulated around the table for Members.

**RESOLVED that progress with increased security measures be awaited and should it be necessary approval be given for works to the shutter doors, if finances were available.**

- (ii) Minute Number 37 Membership on Peterlee Town FC (Ltd)

**RESOLVED that Councillor W M Jeffrey represent the Town Council on the Board of Peterlee Newtown Football Club (Ltd).**

- (iii) Minute Number 29 Passmore's Pole, Shotton Hall it was

**RESOLVED that consideration of the installation of lighting to the Passmore Pole in the grounds of Shotton Hall, be deferred.**

126. STOCKTAKE SUMMARY SHEET – SHOTTON HALL – 30<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2006

Consideration was given to the Stocktaker's Report for the period up to 30<sup>th</sup> August 2006. Members noted the profit margin of 67% and were delighted asking that the Council's appreciation be passed on to the Facilities Team for their hard work and efforts in achieving this result.

**RESOLVED that the Stocktaker's Report be received and appreciation be passed on to the Facilities Team.**

127. 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 as follows:-

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Proposal First Floor Extension, Ground Floor Rear Extension &  
Additional windows  
At The Garden of Eden Cottage, Manor Way  
For Mr Richardson

Proposal Side Extension & Private Garage  
At 10 Bedford Place  
For Mr & Mrs Morrison

Proposal First Floor Side Extension  
At 36 Lambton Court  
For Mr L Jewitt

Proposal New Entrance  
At Unit 3 Former Safeway, The Broadclose  
For Storey Carpets Ltd

Proposal First Floor Side Extension  
At 35 Lambton Court  
For Mr Hunter

Proposal Conservatory & Porch  
At 26 Van Mildert Close  
For Mr Masey

Proposal Change of use from Open Space to Private Garden  
At Land Adjacent 10 & 11 Dormand Drive  
For Miss E Piasecki & Mr P Dunster

Proposal Provision of First Floor Extension  
At 3 Bellister Park  
For Mr Baker

**RESOLVED that no objections be submitted on the applications  
given.**

128. PERSONNEL AND HEALTH & SAFETY ADVICE

Consideration was given to a letter received from the District of

Easington with regard to the help and advice given by their Personnel Section to Town and Parish Councils. The Town Clerk suggested that this was a valuable source of information, support and advice to the Town Council and, subject to the proposed charge, he would recommend that the Town Council accept this offer.

**RESOLVED that this offer be re-considered at the next Council Meeting.**

129. CASTLE EDEN DENE NNR CREATION OF NATURAL ENGLAND

The Town Clerk advised that on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2006, English Nature would be succeeded by a new organization called Natural England. He confirmed that Natural England would inherit and take on all of the former organization's responsibilities with regard to the agreements established with the Town Council.

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

130. DURHAM RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL AGM, 12<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2006, WHEATLEY HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Details were given of the Durham Rural Community Council's Annual General Meeting to be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2006.

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

131. ASSOCIATED FOOTWAYS OF BURNHOPE WAY & BEDE WAY, PETERLEE – TEMPORARY FOOTWAY CLOSURE

Members were circulated with details of the above closure that would be in force from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September for approximately five days.

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

132. LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader mentioned several items within his report. He spoke on the attacks of vandalism being suffered by the Town. He was pleased to see that remedial were progressing with Ridgemount House. He also asked those Members that sat on the Town Council when the Cemetery was first opened to keep in mind the original aims and aspirations for the new cemetery when considering the current issues at the Cemetery.

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