

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 20TH AUGUST 2007

PRESENT: COUN T JONES (CHAIR)

Mesdames: L Wood, J Measor, M Milsom, J Scott

Messrs: R Kyle, B Scott, H Bennett MBE,
W M Jeffrey, J Hardy, R Curtis,
D Langan, C J Metcalfe,
R Huitson, D Milsom,
E W Hall and C Austin

85. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were given on behalf of Councillors M A Cartwright, R Jones and G Cowie.

86. POLICE UPDATE

The Chairman welcomed the Police representative who gave an update on crime figures in the Town, and responded on the matters raised at the last meeting. Local Members raised a number of matters including:-

- Heavy Goods Vehicles parking at Passfield Way
- Heavy Goods Vehicles parking on grassed verges
- Traffic Calming on Durham Way
- Criminal Damage at Peterlee Bus Station
- Anti Social Behaviour
- Incident with Taxi driver(s)
- Fires on Eden Hill Estate

A Local Member advised he understood that the Police had been successful in taking action relating to incidents in the Bus Station, and another Member thanked the Police for their efforts in improving parking problems in the area of the Methodist Church. The Town Clerk had circulated to Members a report from the Police on the success of the last Projekt Sensation Event.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

87. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.
88. THE MINUTES OF THE MAYORS COMMITTEE OF THE 16TH JULY, 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to Member, were agreed.
89. THE MINUTES OF THE SHOW COMMITTEE OF THE 26TH JULY, 2007 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.
90. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Details of the planning applications received were circulated to Members for their consideration. The Town Clerk had also displayed the application detailed below which had been received following completion of the agenda, along with a list of further applications, and asked Members to give consideration to this application:

Proposal	Proposed development of 90 No new dwellings, 10 No Refurbished dwellings, Demolition of 19 dwellings with Associated Works and Construction of Gable End to 10 Johnson Close
At	Land at Fairburn Road, Peterlee
For	Gladedale (Sunderland) Ltd

The Town Clerk advised in connection with application at 19 Marwood Grove, erection of workshop, this was only for private use, and not in connection with any trade or commercial purposes.

In connection with the application to erect 2 No wind turbines access roads and substation at Shotton Colliery, a Local Member asked the Town Council to object to the proposal because of the impact it would have on the area including the Passfield area of Peterlee.

Following a long debate it was **RESOLVED:**

i) that the Town Council make no comment on the wind turbine application, but leave it to individuals and particularly Shotton Parish Council to comment on the proposal should they wish to do so.

ii) that no comments or objections be made to any of the applications received.

91. STOCKTAKE SUMMARY SHEETS FOR SHOTTON HALL BANQUETING SUITES AND PETERLEE FOOTBALL CLUB FOR PERIOD UP TO 30TH JULY, 2007

Consideration was given to the Stocktakers Reports for the period up to 30th July, 2007.

RESOLVED that these Stocktakers Reports be received.

92. ACRE RIGG JUNIOR SCHOOL – GOVERNING BODY

Following the resignation of a Local Member, the Council were asked to give consideration to the nomination of a replacement.

RESOLVED that any Member wishing to be considered give their names to the Clerk as soon as possible.

93. RICHMOND HERITAGE DAY – 19TH SEPTEMBER, 2007 – INVITATION TO ATTEND

The Town Clerk reported an invitation to the Mayor to attend the above event.

RESOLVED that the Mayor be given authority to attend this event.

94. NALC LEADERS LUNCH- 19TH OCTOBER, 2007 – YORK

The Town Clerk reported receipt of an invitation to attend this event.

RESOLVED that the Leader of the Council be given authority to attend.

95. POOP – A – SCOOP BAGS

Members were circulated with correspondence from the District of Easington in the above regard.

RESOLVED that the Town Council purchase a 1,000 of these bags from the District of Easington at a cost of £9.00 + vat, and these be sold at £1.00 per hundred to cover the cost.

96. PETERLEE REGENERATION MEETING – 19TH JULY 2007 – DELEGATE’S REPORT

Members were circulated with the delegate’s report following their attendance at this Meeting on the Town Council’s behalf.

RESOLVED that the delegates report be received.

97. DURHAM POLICE AUTHORITY – POLICING PLAN 2007/8 AND JOINT ANNUAL REPORT 2006/7

Members were circulated with details on how to access these documents via the world wide web.

RESOLVED that the above documents be received.

98. THE COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES – THE FUTURE OF THE RURAL POST OFFICE

Further details were given on this matter.

RESOLVED that this document be received, but it be noted the Town Council recognises the important role played by Post Offices countrywide and support the non closure of Post Offices where appropriate.

99. REMOVAL OF BUS SHELTERS AND INSTALLATION OF APPROPRIATE FLAG/MARKINGS

Members were circulated with correspondence received from Durham County Council.

RESOLVED that the County Council's request to be advised when bus shelters have been reused be noted, and acted on when such circumstances arise in Peterlee.

100. REVIEW OF POLLING STATIONS AND POLLING PLACES

The Town Clerk reported receipt of a letter from the District of Easington asking for comments/alternative venues where it was felt existing polling locations were not suitable.

RESOLVED that no comments be made at this time.

101. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL RIGHTS OF WAY - IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2007-11 CONSULTATION

The Town Clerk had circulated extracts from the consultation document to all Members of the Council.

RESOLVED that no comments be made on this document, but it be noted that one of the features of the future proposals was to link use of paths network to general health/fitness.

102. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

The Town Clerk had circulated to all Member's information received from the County Council on the decision to have a single unitary County Authority.

RESOLVED that this letter be received and a letter be forwarded to the County and District Councils and Town and Parishes in the District proposing that all Councils work as closely as possible to ensure that residents are provided with the best services possible.

103. CHAPEL HILL ROAD – POTENTIAL CAR PARKING SCHEME

A Local Member reported on a recent meeting to discuss the need for 'off road' parking in the area of the bungalows. It was reported, however, that the local County Councillor had not been invited to attend the meeting whose attendance it was felt would have been beneficial.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk make further enquiries and request for a further meeting to be held at which it be requested that the County Councillor be invited to attend.

104. PETERLEE DENE PARKS NORTH & SOUTH - EMERGENCY CLOSURE ORDER

The Town Clerk reported that the second Closure Order was effective to the 27th August 2007 by which time the works were programmed to be complete.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

105. ACRE RIGG RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION - CURRENT STATE OF ACRE RIGG AREA

The Town Clerk had circulated to all Members a report prepared by the Residents Association on the state of Acre Rigg. During the discussion on this matter it was highlighted that Members were aware of the condition of Acre Rigg, but felt the Association were to be congratulated on the way they had presented this serious matter.

The view was expressed that the Town Council do maintain the premises in their ownership to a high standard in Acre Rigg but have no control over the condition of the housing areas, not been the Housing Authority.

RESOLVED that the Town Council give any support it can to Acre Rigg Residents Association on this matter and the Town Clerk send an appropriately worded letter.

106. 100 YEARS OF SCOUTING 2007 – LETTER OF THANKS

The Town Clerk reported receipt of a letter from Peterlee and District Scouts expressing their gratitude for the Council's support and work in providing the commemorative flower bed in recognition of 100 years of scouting, and for the use of Shotton Hall Grounds for their Sunrise Service.

RESOLVED that the letter be received.

107. PETERLEE MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH - 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The Town Clerk reported receipt of a letter from the Church requesting whether the Parks Department could create a flower bed in Summer 2008 to mark this Golden Anniversary.

RESOLVED that this request be agreed.

108. LEISURE GARDENERS – REQUESTS TO ERECT POLYTUNNEL/GREENHOUSE

RESOLVED these requests be deferred to a future meeting of the Parks and Cemetery Committee.

109. ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY - SCOUTS YEAR BOOK – CENTENARY EDITION

RESOLVED that the action of the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, in taking a quarter page advertisement in the above year book at a cost of £89.00 be endorsed.

110. PATHFINDER YOUTH APPLICATION - REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Town Clerk reported details of a recent grant application made by Groundwork Trust to the North Peterlee Pathfinder for a young peoples project in the Edenhill area which would provide activities for young people 13-19 years old on Saturday evenings for the next seven months.

The Groundwork Trust were seeking financial support from the Town Council in order that the project could proceed.

RESOLVED that the Town Council support this project and make a financial contribution of £5,671 from finances set aside in this year's budget for youth work.

111. SHOTTON HALL – USE OF CANDLES

The Town Clerk had circulated a report to all Members following concerns raised by the franchised caterer about the use of “tea lights” in the Banqueting Suites.

RESOLVED that a decision on this matter be deferred to a future meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

112. PETERLEE CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS - REQUEST TO REVIEW

The Town Clerk had circulated to all Members, two letters from residents asking if the Town Council would review it's rules and regulations relating to the Cemetery.

Following consideration of these letters, it was **RESOLVED that the it be noted that the current rules and regulations had been established to create a "lawned cemetery" which would be maintained to an appropriate high standard by the Town Council. Whilst sympathetic, the Council felt that their aims and aspirations had not changed, and as such confirmed the existing rules and regulations should remain in force.**

113. PETERLEE FC LADIES 2ND TEAM - REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION

The Town Clerk reported receipt of a request from Peterlee Ladies FC for additional changing accommodation at Eden Lane. An estimate had been received for the supply of an appropriate temporary building. This did not incorporate any water supply as the Ladies Team felt this was unnecessary.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk request the Ladies Team to confirm in writing no water supply was required. On receipt of this confirmation, the Leader of the Council and Town Clerk be given authority to proceed if considered appropriate.

114. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND THE 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 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985.

115. HELTFORD ROAD REBUILD AND MULTI USE GAMES AREA
(i) Multi use Games Area

The Town Clerk had circulated to all Members, the Quantity Surveyor's report on the tenders received for this scheme.

RESOLVED that the lowest tender submitted by Brambledown Landscape Services in the sum of £266,982.06 be accepted.

(ii) Grant Application to Coalfield Regeneration Trust

The Town Clerk advised that he had been notified the scheme had been agreed to move forward to the "check in" stage.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(iii) The Minutes of the Helford Road Working Party held on 23rd July 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

116. FIREWORK DISPLAY – 5TH NOVEMBER 2007

The Town Clerk advised that he had sought three quotations for the firework display. Two quotations had been received, Alan Hillary Events had been unable to quote due to prior commitments. The two quotations received were currently being analyzed and a report would be submitted to the next appropriate meeting.

RESOLVED that a further report be awaited.

PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM, COUNCILLOR R CURTIS DECLARED AN INTEREST IN THE MATTER.

117. SHOTTON HALL CATERING FRANCHISE – LEGAL ADVICE ON CHOCOLATE FOUNTAINS

The Town Clerk had circulated to Members legal advice received on the provision of chocolate fountains in Shotton Hall. This advice clearly stated that existing franchised caterer had the right to supply this service, and to object to any other supplier being allowed to provide this service to hirers.

RESOLVED that the advice be noted and only the franchised caterer be allowed to supply the chocolate fountain service in Shotton Hall.

FURTHER RESOLVED the Town Clerk and the Facilities Manager give further consideration to the issue of champagne fountains.

118. LEASE OF FORMER PLAY AREA AT MORTON SQUARE

RESOLVED that the proposed rent of £25.00 per annum, be agreed with effect to the next review date of 2011.

119. EDEN LANE – TELECOMMUNICATIONS MAST, RENEWAL OF LEASE

The Town Clerk has circulated a report advising that the existing lease for the mast station was due to expire and needed to be renegotiated with National Grid Wireless.

RESOLVED that Durham County Council’s Property Services Division be engaged to carry out these negotiations at an estimated cost of £750.00 on the Town Council’s behalf.

120. FORMER WARDEN’S HOUSE – LOWHILLS ROAD

The Town Council reported that following the passing away of the existing tenant, the keys had been handed in, and the property “boarded up”. The Town Clerk advised he was currently checking the “claw back arrangement”, and suggested the Council obtain a valuation of the premises. A number of enquiries had already been received and a further report would be presented as soon as possible to the appropriate Committee.

RESOLVED that that a further report be awaited.

121. PROPOSED EDEN LANE MUGA- FEASIBILITY

The Town Clerk advised the quotations had been received from Lumdson, Wood, Partnership and DTA Consulting Engineers in the sums of £1,250 and £2,500 respectively for carrying out a feasibility study on the tennis courts area. Subsequently, the Football Foundation had suggested considering using the area at the top of the proposed third pitch for the MUGA scheme and the Town Clerk was currently discussing with Architects, Michael Hyde and Associates, whether this was a possibility.

RESOLVED that course of action be followed and a further report prepared in due course.

122. PAYMENT OF HONORARIUM TO HORTICULTURAL SUPERVISOR

RESOLVED that an honorarium of £79.64 per week be paid to Mr B Arnell in the absence of the Estate Manager.

123. HILL RIGG HOUSE-LICENCE TO OCCUPY

The Town Clerk had circulated a report on this request for Member's consideration.

RESOLVED that the Town Council grant a Licence to occupy Training Room 1 at Hill Rigg House to North Blunts Child Care Centre until such times as the future long term use of the premises was determined.

124. PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL - IT SUPPORT RENEWAL

The Deputy Town Clerk had prepared a report giving details of references received for GBM Solutions, Boldon. The Town Council also advised Members of a further proposal put forward by Edge Designs regarding a Virtual Office Solution.

RESOLVED that the contract for the provision of IT support services be awarded to GMB Solutions on the terms and conditions previously accepted.

125. PROPOSED RESTRUCTURE OF THE PARKS DEPARTMENT/
TO ESTABLISH A PANEL TO HEAR THE GRIEVANCE
LODGED BY THE ESTATE MANAGER

The Council Members considered the report prepared by the Town Clerk on this matter. A copy of the Estate Manager's letter dated 8th August, 2007, had also been circulated to all Members.

RESOLVED that the report be adopted and that the Members of the Panel be Councillors R Huitson, H Bennett MBE and D Langan.

126. LEADER'S REPORT

(i) Groundsman Of The Year Awards

The Leader was pleased to report that the Newtown Ground had been awarded the Durham FA Groundsman of The Year Award at Level 6 and 7. Mr John Harrison had been invited to attend the Awards Ceremony Dinner at the Rainton Meadows Arena on 4th September, 2007.

RESOLVED that Mr Harrison be given authority to attend the Awards Ceremony and a letter of congratulations be sent to the Parks Staff on this achievement.

(ii) Peterlee Town Sports & Social Club

The Leader made reference to the enormous potential at the Newtown Football Club and that the management of the Club needed consideration quickly. The Leader also asked the Facilities Manager to carry out an inspection of the premises to determine what repairs and re-decoration was required.

RESOLVED that a further report be made as soon as possible.

(iii) Parking On Footpaths

The Leader highlighted again the dangers to pedestrian's when residents parked on footpaths and hoped this matter would be fully addressed by the responsible authorities in the future.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted and actioned where appropriate.