

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2007

PRESENT: COUN M A CARTWRIGHT (CHAIR)

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

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

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

PRIOR TO THE MEETING, A 15 MINUTE “OPEN SESSION” WAS HELD TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUT QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL.

197. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were given on behalf of Councillors R Kyle, G Cowie, C Robbins and T Jones.

198. POLICE UPDATE

The Chairman welcomed Sgt Dickinson to the meeting. The representatives gave Members an update on the crime figures in the Town since the last meeting and on action taken.

The Leader of the Council brought up the following items for attention:-

- Delivery wagons for Asda parked on the main road – a patrol car had driven past and not taken any action;

- Driving conduct of taxis drivers;
- Parking of vehicles on footpaths;
- Motorcycles at Eden Lane;
- Dene Parks – youths congregating;

The Leader, on behalf of the Council, wished Sgt Dickinson a peaceful Christmas and New Year.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

199. AUDIT

The Chairman welcomed Mr Jim Dafter of the Audit Commission who was attending the meeting to present the Annual Audit Letter for Peterlee Town Council for the Audit 2006/07.

Mr Dafter took Members through the report and in summary, whilst acknowledging work had been carried out on the risk management, felt the Council needed to introduce a formal risk management register with scored risks, which should be reviewed at least annually.

He conveyed his thanks to the Town Clerk and his Officers for their assistance and good humour in carrying the audit work. The Chairman in turn thanked Mr Dafter for coming along to the meeting.

RESOLVED that the action as detailed in the report be undertaken following discussions at the meeting to be held with Mr Dafter, the Town Clerk and a representative of Zurich Municipal early in the New Year.

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

201. THE MINUTES OF THE MAYORS COMMITTEE OF THE 19TH NOVEMBER, 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

202. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE OF THE 23RD NOVEMBER 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.
203. THE REPORT OF THE TWINNING SUB COMMITTEE OF THE 26TH NOVEMBER 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.
204. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 3RD DECEMBER 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.
Matters Arising
Minute Number 101 – Campaign to Protect Rural England
RESOLVED that Councillor C Austin be nominated to represent the Town Council on this organization.
205. THE REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE 3RD DECEMBER 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.
206. THE REPORT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 3RD DECEMBER 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.
207. THE REPORT OF THE CLERK’S ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE 10TH DECEMBER 2007 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.
Matters Arising
(a) Minute Number 52(i) Request for Concessionary Use – Fashion Show it was noted that the Mayor had now advised that this event had been cancelled.
RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(b) Minute Number 54 – Members Learning and Development it was noted that Councillor Metcalfe had expressed a willingness to attend some of these courses.

RESOLVED that Councillor Metcalfe advise the Office which of these courses he was available to attend.

208. THE REPORT OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF THE 10TH DECEMBER 2007 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

209. STOCKTAKE SUMMARY SHEET, SHOTTON HALL BANQUETING SUITES & PETERLEE FOOTBALL CLUB – PERIOD UP TO THE 11TH DECEMBER 2007

Consideration was given to the Stocktaker's Reports for the period up to 11th December 2007.

RESOLVED that these Stocktaker's Reports be received.

210. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Details of a planning application received was circulated to Members for their consideration.

RESOLVED that no comments or objections be made to the application received.

211. BIG LOTTERY FUND COMMUNITY BUILDINGS: APPLICATION FOR A GRANT

Members were circulated with a copy of a letter received from the Big Lottery Fund advising that unfortunately the Big Lottery Fund had decided not to invite the Town Council to send in a Stage Two application for a grant from the Community Buildings Programme.

Members were obviously very disappointed at this news, and felt this matter should be taken up, bearing in mind that organizations

in the North East are informed there are insufficient quality applications coming out of this area.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted and the matter be taken up after 19th December 2007.

212. RE-DEVELOPMENT OF EAST DURHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE – HOWLETCHE SITE – LETTER OF COMPLAINT

Members were circulated with a copy of a letter of complaint from a resident of Stainton Way, Peterlee regarding the working hours on the new Howletch College Building.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) **the Town Council offer their support to the residents of Stainton Way and a letter confirming this be sent to the District of Easington;**
- (ii) **the Town Council await the outcome of discussions on this matter at the District of Easington Planning Committee to be held on 18th December 2007.**

213. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN – ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE 2008/09, 2009/10 AND 2010/11

The Town Clerk circulated for Members a copy of the report of the suggested estimates for 2008/09 and estimated projections for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) **the Council budget for 2008/09 be set at £4,047,536.00, with £2,055,301.00 being met from loan/grant/other income, leaving a net requirement of £1,992,231.00;**
- (ii) **the Town council's precept for 2008/09 be set at £1,227,313.00;**
- (iii) **the shortfall in the budget of £764,921.00 being met from the Council's reserves.**

214. NEW YEAR'S EVE TICKETS 2008

Members were asked to agree the price for the tickets for the New

years Eve Function for 2008.

RESOLVED that the ticket price be set at £25.00 per ticket and tickets be offered for sale on Wednesday 2nd January 2008 with Members being allocated 4 tickets each should they wish to take them up.

215. INFORMAL CIVIC RECEPTION – SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL, FRIDAY 25TH JANUARY 2008

Members were circulated with an invitation from the Mayor of Seaham to attend an informal Civic Reception at Seaham Town Council Civic Offices on Friday 25th January 2008.

Members were asked to advise the office as soon as possible of their intentions.

RESOLVED that the invitation be accepted and Members advise the Office as soon as possible of their intentions.

216. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS & PUBLIC IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED, THE COMMITTEE PASSED THE FORMAL RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS & PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING, PURSUANT TO THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) ACT, 1961 & THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985.

217. THE REPORTS OF THE PANEL MEETING HELD ON 23RD OCTOBER 2007 AND THE SPECIAL ESTABLISHMENT MEETING HELD ON THE 28TH NOVEMBER 2007, copies of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed, subject to the title of the minutes being amended to read “The Report of the Panel held on 23rd October 2007 to hear the Grievance brought by the Estate Manager”.

Councillor Hall advised that he took issue with the minutes of these meetings as he felt that they were misleading. He had contacted the District of Easington’s Monitoring Officer for advice on this

matter.

Councillor Huitson had Chaired the initial Panel meeting and attended the subsequent Special Establishment Committee meeting and confirmed that the minutes were correct, subject to the title of the meeting on the 23rd October 2007 being changed.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

218. COMPROMISE AGREEMENT - ESTATE MANAGER

Following advice taken from the North East Regional Employers Organization, the Town Clerk outlined for Members a suggested compromise agreement which was understood to be acceptable to the Estate Manager to terminate his employment with the Town Council.

RESOLVED that approval be given for this compromise agreement to be offered to Mr S Burroughs, on the terms and conditions outlined, and this agreement be affected as soon as possible.

219. THE REPORT OF THE EDEN LANE FOOTBALL CLUB LIAISON GROUP OF THE 4TH DECEMBER 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

Members asked that further information be obtained on how financial assistance already awarded had been used by the Football Club. The Town Clerk also advised that all teams had been requested to submit copies of up to date balance sheets/ bank statements.

RESOLVED that this course of action be followed.

220. LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader gave his report which mainly concentrated on the progress with moves for the Unitary Authority. In closing, he wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year asking for everyone to have their minds focussed on striving forward in

2008.

The Mayor wished all Members and staff all the very best for the Christmas and the New Year.