

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2008

PRESENT: COUN M A CARTWRIGHT(CHAIR)

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

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

265. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were given on behalf of Councillors G Cowie and C Robbins.

266. POLICE UPDATE

The Chairman welcomed Beat Officer Bowman to the meeting who gave Members an update on crime figures in the Town since the last meeting and of the action taken. He gave details on recent operations in the Town.

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

- Asda wagons parking illegally;
- Horses being tethered on the Chapel Hill Estate. Some horses were tethered in such a way they could cause a danger to motorists and pedestrians;
- Durham Way – the Police confirmed that they had an operation where fixed penalty fines had been issued to motorists;
- LIDL – youths gathering;
- Passfield Way – lack of presence of Beat Bobbies.

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

267. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING & SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2008, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed, subject to Councillor R Curtis being shown as in attendance.

268. EAST DURHAM ARTIST NETWORK

The Chairman introduced Bill Harris, Bruce Burn and Steve Sproates from the East Durham Artists Network.

The representatives were promoting the Network that they started 2 years ago. They have hosted a number of local exhibitions, one at Shotton Hall, and they circulated a list of the aims they had set out to achieve. They expressed a wish to work with Councils and gave details of their work with Seaham Town Council taking an exhibition over to their twin town in Gerlingen, Germany. They wished to develop a similar relationship with Nordenham and Peterlee. They asked for consideration for space in Shotton Hall to display local art and for any awards they may receive. They reported that they currently had a community gallery in the foyer of the College but that this area would be greatly reduced in the College new build.

During the question and answer session it was suggested that the Network submit an application for financial assistance and that they put their requests in writing for a community gallery, including details of their insurance, security arrangements etc.

The representatives were thanked for their attendance.

**RESOLVED that this course of action be agreed and details from the East Durham Artists Network be awaited.**

269. THE REPORT OF THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2008, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member was agreed, subject to Councillor T Jones being included in the list of those in attendance.

270. THE REPORT OF THE HELFORD ROAD WORKING PARTY OF THE 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2008, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member was agreed.

A list of suggested persons to invite to the Official Opening to be held on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2008 was circulated for Member's approval and it was asked that representatives from Peterlee AFC and the Big Lottery Fund be included.

**RESOLVED that the list be approved, subject to this inclusion, and invitations be sent out for this opening.**

271. THE REPORT OF THE SHOW MEETING OF THE 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2008, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member was agreed.

272. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2008 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed, subject to Councillor Mrs M Milsom being included in the list of apologies for the meeting.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 181 – new Ellison Road School Site

Members were circulated with copies of two letters received from Durham County Council in connection with the above project.

**RESOLVED that the Town Clerk make further investigations with Durham County Council regarding the potential leasing of**

**the small parcel of land required to the County Council.**

273. THE REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2008 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed, subject to Councillor Mrs M Milsom being included in the list of apologies for the meeting.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 38 - The Validation of Planning Applications In Easington

The Town Clerk circulated for Members further details on this matter and that national requirements seemed to be the driver for this with more information being requested when applications were first submitted on items such as air quality, bio diversity, flood risk assessments etc.

**RESOLVED that the information given be noted, and no comments be made.**

274. THE REPORT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2008 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed, subject to Councillor Mrs M Milsom being included in the list of apologies for the meeting.

275. THE REPORT OF THE CLERK'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2008 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

Matters Arising

(i) Minute Number 75(ii) – ICCM Corporate Seminar 2008, Cranfield University, Bedford, 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May 2008 **RESOLVED that Mr Wayne Harriman, Cemetery Officer, rather than Mr Arnell, be authorised to attend this Seminar with the two Members from the Conference list.**

(ii) Minute Number 76 - Enjoy England – Celebrate St George's Day – 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2008, the Town Clerk reported that the Manager at the Information Centre had started making arrangements as suggested for a tea at the Information Centre on

St George's Day and for an event to celebrate St George's Day. Suggestions were also made that next year's event be held at Helford Road.

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

276. THE REPORT OF THE INFORMATION CENTRE COMMITTEE OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2008 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

277. THE REPORT OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2008 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 97 – Eden Lane Football Club – Request for Financial Assistance, further details of how grant funding had been spent were circulated to each Member.

**RESOLVED that this matter be deferred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee.**

278. STOCKTAKE SUMMARY SHEET, SHOTTON HALL BANQUETING SUITES & PETERLEE FOOTBALL CLUB – PERIOD UP TO 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2008

Consideration was given to the Stocktaker's Reports for the period up to 6<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

**RESOLVED that the information be accepted.**

279. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Details of planning applications received were circulated to Members for their consideration.

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

280. RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT

Members were circulated with a copy of updated risk assessments carried out for individual services of the Town Council.

**RESOLVED that this report be re-considered at a future meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, when some further minor amendments to these assessments had been made.**

281. LOCAL LEADERSHIP IN ACTION – CONFERENCE – DELEGATE’S REPORT

Members were circulated with a copy of the delegate’s report following their attendance at this Conference.

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

282. 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.

283. FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS – YEAR END CLOSEDOWN

The Town Clerk gave details of the cost to close the Council’s accounts this year using RBS as in previous years. The agreed date was 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

**RESOLVED that RBS be engaged to close the Town Council's accounts at a cost of £350.00 + mileage costs.**

284. PURCHASE OF PARKS DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT

- (a) Bowling Green Maintenance Equipment
- (b) Generation 3 MUGA Maintenance Equipment

**RESOLVED the Town Clerk be given authority, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Parks & Cemetery Committee to purchase these two pieces of equipment in accordance with Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.**

285. I .D.E.A. EVENT – WARWICK UNIVERSITY – 28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2008

Consideration was given to the invitation to the Town Clerk to attend and take part in this Councillor Support Workshop. Peterlee were the only Town Council to be invited and the Town Clerk asked Members for feedback on areas where they felt that support should be given to Councillors.

**RESOLVED that the invitation be accepted and the Town Clerk be given authority to attend this event. Any Members having any issues they felt may be appropriate advise the Town Clerk prior to the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2008.**

286. CO-OPERATIVE BANK – CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION

The Town Clerk advised that following an update on signatories on the Council's Bank Accounts he felt it was appropriate to confirm that members were agreeable to continuing to use the Co-operative Bank for it's banking services.

**RESOLVED that it be agreed that the Town Council continue to use the Co-operative Bank for it's banking services.**

287. PARKS & CEMETERY DEPARTMENT – RESTRUCTURE

**RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be given authority to continue negotiation with Durham County Council regarding support for building services and a further report on the Parks & Cemetery Department be awaited.**

288. LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader gave his report under the following:-

- Edenhill Area. The Leader commented that the building work going on in this Ward was excellent and well planned, vastly improving the area and environment;
- MUGA Helford Road – looks excellent in readiness for the Official opening
- Stakeholder meeting. The Leader and the Town Clerk had attended a recent presentation; the networking opportunities after the meeting had been valuable;
- Eden Farm. The Leader and the Town Clerk had the opportunity to meet with the owner of this company who had been very positive about expansion of the Company in Peterlee;
- The Leader made reference to the reply received from John Cummings MP (a copy of which had been circulated), and to the recent press article regarding successful awards of Lottery Funding;
- Unitary elections. The Leader gave a brief update and once again stressed the need for the Town Council to be positively involved with this.

289. PETERLEE YOUTH CENTRE

The Council's appointed representative expressed his disappointment that he had not been advised of recent meetings. He asked once again that the Centre be contacted and reminded of his contact details and interest in attending future meetings.

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

290. REQUEST FOR CONCESSIONARY USE OF SHOTTON HALL – ROTARY CLUB



The Town Clerk reported receipt of a request for concessionary use of Shotton Hall on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

**RESOLVED that this request be refused in accordance with Council Policy and this organization be advised of the need to apply well in advance of an event.**