

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2008

PRESENT: COUN T JONES (CHAIR)

Mesdames: J Black, J I Measor & M Milsom

Messrs: R Kyle, 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. THERE WERE NO
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT.

108. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were given on behalf of Councillors G Cowie,
M A Cartwright, L Wood, C Robbins, R Jones & C J Metcalfe.

109. POLICE UPDATE

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

The Leader asked Sgt Hawkes if he could arrange for the following matters to be looked into:-

- Lead being stolen from Bungalows at Chapel Hill Road;
- An 11 year old pupil of a local school being offered drugs in school;
- Charity boxes being stolen from two public houses in Horden;
- No crime reference number being given following an incident of criminal damage to Council property;
- What were the legal requirements for signs when CCTV cameras were in operation;
- Problems in the Hatfield Place area with youths skateboarding – asking what was the working relationship between the Street Wardens and the Police;
- Asda/HGV drivers parking on the approach to the island off Surtees Road – it was suggested that the County Councillor be contacted to request bollards be put in place;
- Speeding traffic – Durham Way.

Members were encouraged to use the telephone number supplied by the Police to make reports. The Police were thanked for their attendance.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

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

Matters Arising

Minute Number 72 – Castle Eden Bridges

The Town Clerk advised that he had arranged a site meeting on the 16th September 2008 to consider proposals for these bridges and he would report back on the outcome in due course.

RESOLVED that a further report be awaited.

111. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REPORT – PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL AUDIT 2007/08

The Chairman welcomed Rochelle Tribe, Audit Manager and Cathie

Eddowes, Principal Auditor who were in attendance to present their report on the Audit for the year ended 31st March 2008. The Audit was now complete and it was intended that the Town Council would be issued with an unqualified report.

The Value for Money Report had also reached the conclusion of an unqualified report.

The Auditors advised there had been some significant progress in relation to risk management.

The meeting was then opened up to allow for questions. In closing the Leader thanked the Clerk and his staff for achieving this report and to the representatives from Audit for coming along.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

112. THE REPORT OF THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE OF THE 18TH AUGUST 2008 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

113. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 1ST SEPTEMBER 2008 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

Matters Arising

- (i) Minute Number 63 – Councillors Indemnity – Code of Conduct

The Town Clerk advised of the premium payment for such cover and had spoken to nearby Councils as to whether or not they took this cover up, none of them did.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk investigate what the take up of this type of cover is in the North East and report back to Members.

- (ii) Minute Number 66 – Replacement Representative On Outside bodies

RESOLVED that the Members listed below be nominated to the

following Committees and Outside Bodies:-

- (a) **Shotton Hall Sub Committee**
Councillor D Milsom
- (b) **Helford Road Working Party**
Councillor J Alvey
- (c) **Citizens Advice Bureau**
Councillor J Alvey
- (d) **Castle Eden Dene Joint Management Committee**
Councillor J Hardy
- (e) **East Durham Practice Based Commissioning Shadow Board**
Councillor C Austin

114. THE REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE 1ST SEPTEMBER 2008 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

115. THE REPORT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 1ST SEPTEMBER 2008 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

116. THE REPORT OF THE CLERK'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE 8TH SEPTEMBER 2008 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

Matters Arising

- (a) Minute Number 5 (iii) Peterlee Community Centre

RESOLVED contact be made with the District and County Councils to see if they had any surplus furniture. Upon receipt of the information further consideration be given to a donation.

- (b) Civic Taxi Contract

RESOLVED that the contract specification be written to provide a civic car prestigious civic events/functions and a taxi be used for other trips.

- (c) Concessionary Use of Hill Rigg House

Clarification was requested on the cleaning of the building during the

current concessionary uses granted until December 2008. The Town Clerk confirmed that this was treated as a normal hiring and the building would be regularly cleaned under the cleaning regime operated for all Council premises.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM COUNCILLOR E W HALL DECLARED AN INTEREST AND LEFT THE MEETING DURING IT'S CONSIDERATION.

117. THE REPORT OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF THE 8TH SEPTEMBER 2008 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

Matters Arising

- (i) Minute Number 38 Asset Management Meeting

RESOLVED that the members of the Shotton Hall Sub Committee make up the group to consider asset management.

- (ii) Minute Number 39 – Parks Inspection – Tiling Eden Lane Changing Rooms

RESOLVED that the lowest tender submitted by G D Ceramics in the sum of £860.00, be accepted and approval be given for the works to be undertaken as soon as possible.

- (iii) Minute Number 48 – Redundant Machinery

RESOLVED that the price submitted by Tees Turf Machinery in the sum of £1,000 +vat be accepted. FURTHER RESOLVED that no further offers be considered as this equipment had not been offered by public advert.

118. STOCKTAKE SUMMARY SHEET, SHOTTON HALL BANQUETING SUITES & PETERLEE FOOTBALL CLUB – PERIOD UP TO 4TH SEPTEMBER 2008

Consideration was given to the Stocktaker's Reports for the period up to 4th September 2008.

The Town Clerk reported that he and the Facilities Manager had met with a representative of a firm offering a line cleaning system on which he would report back to Members.

RESOLVED that the reports provided by the Stocktaker, be received.

119. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Members were given details of planning applications received from the District of Easington.

RESOLVED that no objections be offered to the applications submitted.

120. ACRE RIGG WARD – CASUAL VACANCY

The Town Clerk reported that he had advised the District of Easington of this vacancy and that the closing date for nominations was the 18th September 2008.

RESOLVED that progress be awaited.

121. POLICE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP

In considering this information reference was made as to who the current representative on this Group was, it had formerly been Councillor D Milsom.

RESOLVED that this be investigated, and the Consultative Group be asked to forward correspondence directly to the current representative.

122. THORNTREE GILL LEISURE GARDENS – TOILET PROVISION – LANDLORD'S CONSENT

Plans for this proposal were on display at the meeting.

RESOLVED that Landlord's consent be granted for this work to proceed in accordance with drawing number 9799/53.

123. THE REPORT OF THE HELFORD ROAD WORKING PARTY HELD ON 9TH SEPTEMBER 2008 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

124. HELFORD ROAD SPORTS & COMMUNITY BUILDING – SUGGESTED NAMES

Consideration was given to the report prepared listing all of the names suggested for this new building.

RESOLVED that the name “The Pavilion” be the chosen name for the new building.

125. 5TH NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS 2008

The Town Clerk suggested to Members that following a risk assessment and discussions with the main contractor for the new Helford Road building that it would not be feasible on health & safety grounds to have a bonfire at this year's 5th November celebrations. As an alternative, it was suggested that entertainment be put on before the firework display and prices had been obtained for a drumming group that compete against each other and came highly recommended.

RESOLVED that the bonfire not be held this year and the drummers be engaged at a cost of £450.00 (incl. of vat).

126. 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.

127. LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader raised the following matters under his report:-

- He was disappointed that the local press reporters no longer attended the meetings in person and seemed to prefer “arm chair reporting”;
- Remembrance Sunday – the Leader asked if the Information Centre was still used by the Royal British Legion for a display. If not it was suggested that the Town Council provide an annual display to mark Remembrance Day;
- Impending discussions on the Unitary Authority Arrangements
- It was understood that despite objections, Peterlee College had been granted their licence, although conditions were attached to their approval.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.