

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2008

PRESENT: COUN T JONES (CHAIR)

Mesdames: S McDonnell, J I Measor & L Wood

Messrs: R Kyle, J Alvey, H Bennett MBE, J Hardy, W M Jeffrey, R Curtis, R W Jones, D Langan, C J Metcalfe, R Huitson, 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.

147. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were given on behalf of Councillors M A Cartwright, J Black, C Robbins, G Cowie, D Milsom & M Milsom.

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

149. POLICE -UPDATE

The Police gave Members the crime statistics since the last meeting and progress on issues raised at previous meetings.

Sgt Dickinson reported that he had attended the College disco which had been very busy with somewhere around 650 young people in attendance. He gave details on follow up regarding the flat block at Brecon Close. When delivering the statistics he urged Members to stress to residents the need to lock their doors as many of the incidents reported related to insecure premises. Details were given on Rogue Riders Initiative where motor bikes had been crushed in Haswell, Easington and Peterlee. The Chairman thanked the Officers for their attendance.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted, and action be taken as set out above.

150. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REPORT – AUDIT 2007/08

Members were circulated with a copy of the Annual Governance Report issued by the Audit Commission for the Audit 2007/08 giving the Town Council an unqualified audit opinion on the Council's accounts on 22 September 2008.

There were a number of issues given in the report which the Town Clerk would attend to.

RESOLVED that the Annual Governance Report for the 2007/2008 Audit Report be accepted.

151. THE REPORT OF THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE OF THE 20TH OCTOBER 2008 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

152. THE REPORT OF THE HEALTH & SAFETY CONSULTATIVE

COMMITTEE OF THE 27TH OCTOBER 2008 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

153. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 3RD NOVEMBER 2008 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

Matters Arising

- (i) Minute Number 102 (iii) – Area Action Partnerships – Update
An update was given on these discussions.

RESOLVED that copies of the minutes of the County Council's meetings for the last six months meetings and 6 months prior to the election in May 2008 be obtained. FURTHER RESOLVED that a further meeting be held with Seaham Town Council Members.

- (ii) Minute Number 102(v) – Peterlee Primary School – Fencing, adjacent Ellison's Bank – Note of Site Meeting

RESOLVED that that no access point be installed and that the fence be replaced with a timber post and rail fence.

- (iii) Minute Number 111 - Membership of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

RESOLVED that the Town Council renew its membership with the CPRE for a further year at the cost of £28.00.

- (iv) Minute Number 116 - Seizing the Future – Public Consultation Document

RESOLVED all Members be given the opportunity to respond directly to the Clerk in order that a response could be collated by the January 2009 deadline.

154. THE REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE 3RD NOVEMBER 2008 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

155. THE REPORT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 3RD NOVEMBER 2008 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 27(ii) County Durham & Cleveland County Training Partnership

RESOLVED that places be reserved on the courses as indicated by Members interested in attending this training.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the current policy on appointments be reviewed.

156. THE REPORT OF THE CLERK'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE 10TH NOVEMBER 2008 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

Matters Arising

- (a) Minute Number 42 - Invitations For The Mayor From Outside The County Boundary
(i) South Tyneside Council
(ii) New Invitation - Greater Willington Town Council

RESOLVED that these invitations be accepted.

- b) Minute Number 43 – Civic Gifts

RESOLVED that this item be referred to a future meeting for consideration.

157. THE REPORT OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF THE 10TH NOVEMBER 2008 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 64(b) Proposed Planting

RESOLVED that the existing hedgeline be pruned back, and if necessary additional turfing be carried out. FURTHER RESOLVED that a report be prepared on the proposals relating to the Cemetery planting with costs etc and phasing of this work.

158. STOCKTAKE SUMMARY SHEET, SHOTTON HALL BANQUETING SUITES & PETERLEE FOOTBALL CLUB – PERIOD UP TO 29TH OCTOBER 2008

Consideration was given to the Stocktaker's Reports for the period up to 29th October 2008.

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

159. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Details of planning applications received were circulated to Members for their consideration. A further application had been received which related to the college. It was asked if the details on this application disclosed whether or not this application encroached on additional parking areas. It was asked if this could be clarified and the Member be advised accordingly.

RESOLVED that no objections be made to the application details submitted and the Town Clerk liaise on the College application with the Chairman of Planning, Leader and Deputy Leader on the reply to be made in this instance.

160. TOWN TWINNING – EASINGTON- BAESWEILER

Members were circulated with a copy of information relating to the next two Twinning Visits to be arranged by the District of Easington to their twin town of Baesweiller, Germany.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

161. PARISH COUNCILS ELECTIONS 2013 – COPY OF A LETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Members were circulated with a copy of correspondence received from the Department of Communities and Local Government confirming that the next Parish Council Elections would be in 2013.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

162. PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL – TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The Town Clerk circulated to Members a copy of the suggested Training & Development Policy for both Members and Officers.

RESOLVED that the Training and Development Policy be adopted.

163. 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.

164. TERMINATION OF INVESTMENT LOAN

The Town Clerk gave Members details of a loan held with the District of Easington which he suggested should be “called in”.

RESOLVED that approval be given for this loan to be called in.

165. PURCHASE OF STIHL CHAINSAW

Consideration was given to this matter. There was debate as to whether an interest should be declared at this point.

RESOLVED that the lowest tender in the sum of £526.83 submitted by Carrs of Billingham, be accepted.

166. ITEC SITE – RELEASE OF RESTRICTIVE COVENANT

The Town Clerk advised members of the latest position regarding negotiations on this matter.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk’s report be accepted and further information on negotiations be awaited.

167. LEADER’S REPORT

The Leader’s report was considered covering the following issues:-

- Members conduct with officers of the Council
- Remembrance Day Parade; he had received feedback from the public saying they were unhappy with the flat memorial in place. The Leader explained the history to the memorial but suggested that the Town Council consider this further and talk to the churches on the matter.

RESOLVED that the action as detailed above, be taken.

- Unitary Authority and Area Action Partnership arrangements –updated Members on discussions.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

168. DELEGATE’S REPORT OF THE REGENERATION MEETING OF THE 30TH OCTOBER 2008

The report of the delegate following his attendance at this meeting was circulated for each Member.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

169. EAST DURHAM TRUST, ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE 28TH OCTOBER 2008

The report of the delegate following his attendance at this meeting was circulated for each Member.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

170. LEADERSHIP ACADEMY, IDeA/NALC, 24TH & 25TH NOVEMBER 2008, WARWICK UNIVERSITY

Members were advised of an invitation to attend this event.

RESOLVED that the invitation be accepted and Councillor C J Metcalfe be nominated to attend on the Town Council's behalf.

171. GREENPATHS GROUNDWORK

Members had been circulated with a copy of information from East Durham Groundwork Trust requesting comments from Members on well used and desired footpaths in their ward.

RESOLVED that Members submit their comments to the Office by 31st November 2008.