

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 2009

PRESENT: COUN C J METCALFE (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- S McDonnell, L Wood, J I Measor &
J Black

Messrs:- R Kyle, J Alvey, H Bennett MBE, J Hardy
W M Jeffrey, D Langan, G Cowie, C Robbins,
R Huitson, D Milsom, C Austin & E W Hall

**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.

128. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted and approved on behalf of
Councillors T Jones, (bad back and knee) and M A Cartwright, (in
hospital).

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

Matters Arising

Minute Number 82 – Members and Staff Christmas Party

RESOLVED that the Members and staff Christmas Party be held on 18th December 2009 and that no partners be invited. Staff who were unable to go to the Party due to work commitments, be invited to have a drink with the Mayor at a later date.

130. POLICE -UPDATE

The Mayor welcomed PC Gordon Brown to the meeting who gave details of the crime statistics since the last meeting and then went on to give an update on issues raised previously.

The Leader gave the following items of concern for attention:-

- Speed monitoring on Durham Way;
- Asda Wagons – a system of parking up and communication should be used;
- HGVs using Lowhills Road;
- Parking at the Methodist Church;
- Bollards and road damage on Ellison Road;
- Taxi drivers illegal maneuvers;
- Town Council play areas having to be closed due to vandalism;
- Motor bikes at Eden Lane playing fields causing a disruption to training.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted, and the progress on these issues be awaited.

A local resident had come along to the meeting to speak to the Police on problems she was experiencing next to her home in Sunny Blunts with anti social behavior and at Passmore's Pavilion. The Police representative assured that they were doing their best to deal with the situation and were active in that area. The Town Clerk also assured that he would make contact regarding problems at Passmore's Pavilion.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted, and should members of the public wish to attend to speak to the Police they do so at the open session held at 7.15 prior to the Council Meeting.

131. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2008/09

The Mayor welcomed Gavin Barker and Paul Hepple, of the Audit Commission who presented their final version of their report on the results of their audit work for 2008/09. A draft report had been discussed and agreed with the Town Clerk and it set out the key issues that the Town Council should consider before the audit was completed. An additional fee was to be charged in respect of unplanned work carried out for the audit.

Mr Barker thanked Members for the opportunity to present the report and for Officers co-operation in preparing the report.

RESOLVED that the Town Council approve the revised accounts for 2009/09, letter of representation on behalf of the Town Council, and accept the recommendations made in the report.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the additional fee of £1,900 plus vat be accepted.

132. THE REPORT OF THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE OF THE 19TH OCTOBER 2009 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

133. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 2ND NOVEMBER 2009 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

134. THE REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE 2ND NOVEMBER 2009 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 23 – The County Durham Plan – Core Strategy Issues Paper 2009 - Consultation

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk compile an appropriate reply to this document making particular reference to the need to continue regeneration work vital for the Town's development and to support pressure to have an extension to the East Durham rail network.

135. THE REPORT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 2ND NOVEMBER 2009 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

136. THE REPORT OF THE CLERK'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE 9TH NOVEMBER 2009 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

137. THE REPORT OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF THE 9TH NOVEMBER 2009 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

Matters Arising

Min No 51 – Edenhill Community Centre – Expression of Interest

It was reported that this matter had been discussed with the Unitary Members and the Town Clerk had had a further meeting with Officers on this proposal. It was understood that this could not be taken any further, due to the cost of making the Hall lettable.

RESOLVED that whilst the Town Council wished to support the continuation of the services that had previously been provided at this building, discussions with Durham County Council had identified the building was not in a lettable condition that this that would not be possible.

138. THE REPORT OF THE PETERLEE SHOW WORKING PARTY OF THE 12TH NOVEMBER 2009 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

RESOLVED that the Show be re-located on the rugby fields; that a circus and two main arena acts be booked, and a Rugby Tournament be held on the Sunday. FURTHER RESOLVED plenary powers be given for the Co-Ordinator to make the necessary bookings.

139. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL
CONSULTATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRAVEL
SCHEMES & ALTERNATIVES TO BUS SERVICES ACROSS
COUNTY DURHAM

Members were circulated with a copy of this consultation document and following consideration it was **RESOLVED that the Town Clerk make an appropriate response to the document highlighting the need for public transport links to the new hospital site at Wynyard.**

140. 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.

141. PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL – NATURAL ENGLAND (TUPE
LIKE) TRANSFER

The Town Clerk gave Members a verbal update on discussions with this matter.

RESOLVED that further developments, be awaited.

142. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL – SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT FOR BUILDING SERVICES 09/10

RESOLVED that this item be deferred to the next Council Meeting.

143. QUOTATION FOR 4 PERSON BENCHES AT THE PAVILION

Consideration was given to prices received from Broxap for four benches to be placed outside the new Pavilion.

RESOLVED that further prices be obtained for benches.

144. LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader gave his report which covered the following areas:-

- Woodhouse Park – leasehold/ freehold interest in additional land;
- Discussions at the Show Working Party;
- Cenotaph and recent letter from an interested resident suggesting that the obelisk in the Cemetery be enhanced and used;
- Meetings of the Pavilion Management Board – the need to consider arrangements more closely.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted and the Town Council agree to enter into a freehold arrangement with Durham County Council for additional land at Woodhouse Park.