

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2010

PRESENT: COUN C J Metcalfe (CHAIR)

Mesdames: S McDonnell, L Wood and J Black

Messrs: R Kyle, T Jones, J Alvey, H Bennett MBE  
J Hardy, W M Jeffrey, R Curtis, R Jones  
D Langan, G Cowie, C J Metcalfe,  
C Robbins, R Huitson, D Milsom &  
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.

189. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted and approved on behalf of Councillors M Milsom, (illness) and J I Measor, (family illness).

190. POLICE – UPDATE

The Chairman welcomed PC Neil Johnson and Special Constable Chris Hepworth to the meeting. PC Johnson apologized for the non attendance of the Police at the last Council meeting, which he put down to an oversight and then gave the Council the monthly crime statistics for the Town. As part of his report PC Johnson advised that:-

- a) Peterlee Cemetery was being regularly patrolled;
- b) PC Gooden had visited Shotton Hall School and ascertained that teachers were monitoring the parking situation;
- c) That speeding on Durham Way had been referred to the Traffic Section.

The Leader of the Council gave the background of the meeting recently held at The Pavilion regarding “the Friends of the Cemetery” and asked how many officers were on duty weekend nights. The officer advised that more officers were on duty Friday and Saturday nights than at any other time.

Clarification was also sought by the Leader on stopping people parking on grass verges as the Council was receiving conflicting information on what action could be taken. These grassed areas of the Town were been churned up and something needed to be done. The Leader advised he would be taking this matter up with Chief Inspector Elaine Taylor.

The Leader also raised the following items:-

- a) The number of fixed penalty fines issued for parking on footpaths;
- b) Problems with youths in the Dene House Ward;
- c) Hotspots in the Town.

It was also noted that moves were being made regarding possible extended evening opening hours in the Youth Centre.

The Chairman thanked the officers for their attendance.

191. KENMORE – CASTLE DENE SHOPPING CENTRE – PROPOSED SUPERMARKET – PRESENTAITON BY MR BEN PILGRIM AND MR NICK WATSON

The Chairman welcomed Mr Pilgrim and Mr Watson to the meeting. Mr Pilgrim advised the meeting of the public consultation held the previous week, and Mr Watson gave an overview of the scheme. The scheme in the area of Argos, Sports Direct and the Job Centre would provide replacement units plus an 80,000 sq ft supermarket. Built on 2 levels the building would be concrete, glass and timber and provide a net increase of 390 car parking spaces. The project build would be 12-16 months, and hopefully would also increase the attractiveness of the Town Centre to national retailers. It was hoped the planning application could be submitted in the next few weeks, although the project was as yet in its early stages. Plans of the scheme would be forwarded to the Town Council.

A short question and answer session followed. Attention was drawn to impact on traffic into the Town Centre. Reference was also made for the need to replace the Youth Centre. It was also highlighted by Mr Watson that existing tenants would have to agree the proposals and would not be forced out.

The Chairman thanked Mr Pilgrim and Mr Watson for their attendance.

**RESOLVED that progress be awaited.**

192. THE REPORT OF THE JOINT CONSULTATIVE HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE OF THE 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2010 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

**RESOLVED that the Town Clerk prepare a further report on the priorities highlighted in the recent Zurich Municipal Inspection Report.**

193. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2010 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 154 – Royal Garden Party

Confirmation had been received via the County Association of Local Councils that nominees or accompanying guests should not have attended a previous Garden Party.

**RESOLVED that the information given be noted and the nomination received from Councillor Hall be forwarded to CDALC.**

194. THE REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2010 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

195. THE REPORT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2010 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

196. THE REPORT OF THE “FRIENDS OF HELFORD COMMUNITY” GROUP OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2010 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

**RESOLVED for clarification it be noted that Councillor’s attending the above meeting do so as a resident and not in their capacity as a Councillor.**

197. THE REPORT OF THE PAVILION MANAGEMENT BOARD OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2010 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

**RESOLVED that the Management Team give consideration to ways of increasing wet side sales.**

198. THE REPORT OF THE CLERK'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2010 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

199. THE REPORT OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF THE 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2010 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed, subject to Councillor M Milsom's apologies for absence being added to the minutes.

Matters Arising

(i) Minute Number 89 – Grave Digging Course – Press Coverage

The Town Clerk had circulated for Member's information details of the press coverage on this course.

**RESOLVED that the information be noted.**

(ii) Minute No 91 – Acre Rigg Social Club Fields

The Town Clerk reported that the required method statement, and risk assessment had now been received.

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

200. THE REPORT OF THE SHOTTON HALL SUB COMMITTEE OF THE 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2010 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

201. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Consideration was given to the details of the following planning applications:-

(i)	Proposal	Residential Development Comprising 53 no units
	At	Former Itec Site, Neville Road
	For	North Blunts (No 1) Ltd

- (ii) Proposal 21 No dwellings, (substitution of house type)  
At Land at Fairbairn Road  
For Ben Bailey Homes

**RESOLVED that no objections/comments be forwarded on the applications received.**

202. SPENNYMOOR, PETERLEE & EASINGTON ACCESS PRIORITISATION PROJECT

The Town Clerk advised of the comments he had already made to the County Council on this matter, but asked if any Member had any other comments / suggestions could they let him know.

**RESOLVED that the action taken by the Town Clerk be endorsed.**

203. TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE – PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT SEMINAR – 22<sup>ND</sup> – 24<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2010 – DELEGATE’S REPORT

The delegates’ report had been circulated to Members. The Leader asked if in future, delegates could incorporate within their reports any ideas or suggestions which could be implemented locally to help the Council address climate change.

**RESOLVED that the delegates’ report be received.**

204. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL – CONTAMINATED LAND STRATEGY – PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Leader of the Council advised of the comments already made at the last Larger Local Councils Forum regarding the short timescale for this consultation. He also expressed the view that it would be

extremely helpful if in such documents reference was made as to how areas were affected by such policy documents. The Town Clerk advised he could not see how this strategy directly impacted on Peterlee, but would seek clarification on zoning. A Local Member questioned any impact on Castle Eden Dene Burn and the burn behind Lowhills Road Leisure Gardens may have.

**RESOLVED that the Town Clerk send an appropriate response to this consultation.**

205. 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.

206. CDLAC LARGER LOCAL COUNCILS FORUM – GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL – 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2010

The Leader of the Council gave a verbal report on this meeting covering the topics of:-

- a) Effectiveness of Area Action Partnerships;
- b) Closure of homes;
- c) Leaders of Town Councils;
- d) Winter maintenance.

A Local Member asked if any discussion had taken place on the closure of community buildings.

**RESOLVED that the information given be noted, and the issue of closure of community buildings be put on agenda for a future Forum meeting.**

207. TWINNING VISIT 2010 – COACH PRICES

**RESOLVED that the lowest tender received from Lee’s Travel of Durham in the sum of £4,000 + vat be accepted.**

208. PETERLEE INFORMATION CENTRE - REQUEST FOR COVER OVER THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS

The Council considered the report submitted by the Information Centre Manager.

**RESOLVED that authority be given to employ a Temporary Seasonal Worker for a eight week period over the Summer to allow satisfactory staffing levels at this time.**

209. LOWHILLS FORMER SPORTS CENTRE – DEVELOPMENT OF SITE – EASEMENT ACROSS TOWN COUNCIL LAND

The Town Clerk had circulated to Members details of an offer made by Nomad E5 in requesting an easement to install drainage across Town Council land as part of the development of 13 bungalows on behalf of the DAMHA on the above site. This offer included tarmacing, road marking, and drainage work at the Lowhills Bowling Green Car Park, works to the perimeter of the green itself and meeting the Town Councils legal and surveyors fees.

**RESOLVED that the offer from Nomad E5 be accepted, subject to the Town Clerk confirming details of the specification of the tarmacing works and a query on the level of legal fees payable.**

210. ST.CUTHBERTS CHURCH, PETERLEE – MESSIAH CONCERT – 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2010

**RESOLVED that the Town Council take a ¼ page advertisement**



**in the programme for the above event at a cost of £69.00 +vat with Sport and Leisure Publications of Gateshead.**

211. REMODELLING OF ST.BEDES RC COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL – BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE – EVENT TO VIEW PLANS

The Town Clerk advised that an Open Evening was to be held at the school on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2010 between 4.00pm - 7.00pm. The plans would also be on display between 22<sup>nd</sup> February – 26<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at local libraries including Peterlee.

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

212. LEADER’S REPORT

The Leader advised he had already raised many of the issues under the Larger Local Councils Forum Report, but gave an update on the proposed Skatepark Scheme, a community scheme for future consideration, and a request from Passfield Residents Association to have a representative from the Town Council at their meeting.

**RESOLVED that the information given be noted and that Councillor R Huitson represent the Town Council at Passfield Community Association Meetings.**