

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE

AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 6TH MARCH 2006

PRESENT: COUN R KYLE (CHAIR)

Mesdames: M Milsom, M A Cartwright,
A E Laing, J I Measor

Messrs: H Bennett, D Milsom,
R Curtis, T Jones, E W Hall, D Coates,
W M Jeffrey, R Huitson, B Scott

MEMBERS WERE REMINDED OF THE NEED TO DISCLOSE ANY INTEREST, PREJUDICIAL OR PERSONAL, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT.

169. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors G Cowie, R Jones, A Lowden, G Calvert and C J Robbins.

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

Matters Arising

a) In connection with Minute No. 150 (b) – Quality Parish Council – Open Day Event Members were circulated with a copy of the invitation to attend the above event at County Hall, Durham between 10am – 2pm on Saturday 18th March 2006.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted, and any Members wishing to attend this event inform the office.



b) In connection with Minute No. 162 – Shotton Hall Catering Franchise, it was confirmed that the catering franchise had been awarded to Mrs J Cockburn of a Touch of Class Catering.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

c) In connection with Minute No. 165 – Credit Card for Council Use, it was noted that the Council would not proceed with an application for a credit card for Council use and the procedure, as recommended by NALC be the Town Clerk use his personal card and the Council reimburse him by a cheque requisitioned through the Finance Sub Committee.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

d) In connection with Minute No. 166 – Buckingham Palace Garden Party, Members were advised that the Town Council's nomination had been unsuccessful on this occasion.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

171. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 6TH MARCH 2006, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was adopted.

172. PETERLEE NEWTOWN FC

The Chairman welcomed Mr Peter Muncaster to the meeting. Mr Muncaster advised the meeting he had 32 years experience in the Northern League and was formerly a Director of Hartlepool United Football Club.

Mr Muncaster was saddened by Peterlee's current position in the League and was hoping to take over as Manager. He also hoped he could get involved in the operation of the social side of the Club, as his business experience may help in improving the financial situation of the Club for the benefit of both football and social sides of the Club.

Mr Muncaster was aware of past relationships between the Football Club and Supporters Club at Eden Lane and that he wanted to work

to improve relationships and run the two sections in harmony. He felt that it was important that something was done for the Club to go forward and to ensure that it would not lose its identity.

The Chairman opened the meeting for a question and answer session.

The Leader referred to the nominal rent charged so that support was given to the Football Club and he spoke about the possibility of the commercial rent being levied. He asked what Mr Muncaster hoped to achieve with his activity with the Club. Mr Muncaster confirmed that he would be hoping to get publicity and would be suggesting to other business people that they may want to be involved and support the Club. He said that he would not like to see Peterlee Newtown AFC disappear and he believed there was an avenue to improve the Social Club. Members asked about the role of a Youth Team and Mr Muncaster said that he sees the Club as a focal point for the community and a massive part of that was to have youth involvement.

Members hoped that there would be close liaison in the future between the Town Council and the Club and following discussion it was **RECOMMENDED that:-**

i) the Town Clerk obtain a copy of the of the constitution and balance sheet from the Social Club

ii) an invitation be extended to the Social Club to attend a future meeting

FURTHER RECOMMENDED that the Town Council support Mr Muncaster with his venture and he be asked to keep in touch with the Town Council and liaise with them closely on progress.

173. FINANCE BUDGET COMPARISON FROM 1ST APRIL – 31ST DECEMBER 2005

A copy of the Expenditure Monitor covering April to December 2005 was circulated for each Member along with year end projected figures. At this point in time, the Town Clerk anticipated year end balances in the region of £480,000.

RECOMMENDED that the Expenditure Monitor from 1st April to 31st December 2005 be accepted.

174. EASINGTON AREA ASSOCIATION OF PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6TH DECEMBER 2005, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were accepted.
175. THE DURHAM ASSOCIATION OF PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS – MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 7TH DECEMBER 2005, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were accepted.
176. NOTES OF THE PETERLEE YOUTH GROUP MEETING HELD ON THE 13TH FEBRUARY 2006, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were discussed.

Members requested a further report on the event held on 10th February 2006 for consideration at the next meeting of the Clerk's Advisory Committee.

RECOMMENDED that this course of action be agreed to.

177. PETERLEE REGENERATION PLAN
a) Use of Compulsory Purchase Orders

Members were circulated with a copy of a reply received from the District of Easington regarding compulsory purchase orders.

Members felt that it was important that the District of Easington kept the Town Council informed of what was happening and particularly that the Town Council's ideas were put into the Plan as it develops. The Leader of the Council endorsed the sentiments expressed by another Member regarding CPO's in housing areas and reiterated that the Town Council needed to be involved with the Regeneration Plan at critical points. The Town Clerk advised that there was to be a meeting of the Member/Officer Working Party regarding the Regeneration Plan in 4-6 weeks time and the

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted and progress be awaited.

b) Peterlee Regeneration Framework

Members were circulated with an extract from the minutes of the District Council regarding the Regeneration Framework. This Framework would identify key developments that need to come forward over the next ten years and this budget will be used to facilitate these key developments and any issues that arise as a result. The allocation would be used to attract inward investment and bridging the gap that the private sector and external funding bodies cannot meet.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

178. APPOLLO PAVILION

a) Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Group of the 1st February 2006

Members were circulated with the report from the Steering Group Meeting held on the 1st February 2006. During consideration a Member asked what was the Town Council's involvement in the water flow to the Pavilion Site as it was understood that this flow was fed from the lake in the grounds of Shotton Hall.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted.

b) Response from the Chief Executive of the District Council

The Chief Executive confirmed that the District Council work associated with the Pavilion was in 2 areas;

- i) Environmental Improvements / Grounds Maintenance which included drainage, clearance of the lake, clearance of the cascade, graffiti removal and other works with an estimate of total costs of approximately £1,500 per year and;
- ii) Officer assistance to the Residents/Stake Holder Group established to develop ideas and plans for the Pavilion. This Officer time has not been costed but included advice to the Group and potential sources of funding/scrutiny of business plans and

feeding back to the Council on progress. It was confirmed that the Director of Community Services was proposing in the near future to review the progress made to date by the Group and consider options for the way forward.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted.

179. NHS FOUNDATION TRUST – INVITATION TO BECOME A TRUST MEMBER

Members were advised of receipt of an invitation from the County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust who were consulting on plans to become an NHS Foundation Trust. As a Foundation Trust, local hospitals would be part of the NHS but would have greater accountability to the community. They were keen to encourage local people to be part of the Foundation Trust Members and would appreciate the Town Council's support in doing so. They invited Parish/Town Council Members to become Foundation Trust Members themselves.

RECOMMENDED that any Member interested contact the Office as soon as possible.

180. LOCAL COUNCIL CHARTER FOR EASINGTON

The Town Clerk circulated for Members an update on the progress in the development of a Local Charter between the Parish/Town Councils and the District Council. The next meeting was to be held on Friday 10th March 2006 and Members would be advised of progress.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

181. REVIEW OF THE QUALITY PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL SCHEME – INITIAL THOUGHTS

Members were circulated with a copy of information from the National Association of Local Councils regarding a research project commissioned by DEFRA to assess the extent of the

success of the Quality Parishes Scheme. The review would analyse:-

- i) The content of the Scheme;
- ii) The acceptability of the Scheme;
- iii) The delivery agents.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted and the Town Clerk be given authority to submit a view on the scheme on the Town Council's behalf.

182. AUDIT – NOTE OF MEETING WITH PAUL HEPPLER FROM DISTRICT AUDIT

Members were circulated with a note following the Town Clerk's meeting with District Audit. A Member referred to an outstanding issue that was to be referred to the Audit Sub Committee and he suggested that this be considered along with issues raised with the District Audit for next year's audit. The Town Clerk was to meet again with Paul Hepple and he suggested that a meeting of the Audit Sub Committee be called following that meeting.

RECOMMENDED that this course of action be agreed to.

183. EAST DURHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE – STAGE DOOR SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS – ADVERTISING THE PROGRAMME FOR "FAME" THE MUSICAL

Members were asked to give consideration to supporting this publication in taking out an advertisement in it.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Council support this publication and place a quarter page insert at a cost of £72.00.

184. EXPERIAN – SURVEY OF MAJOR CENTRES

The Town Clerk circulated for Members copies of details of surveys that were to be carried out around the shopping centres in the North East which included Peterlee on Wednesday 23rd February and the 2nd, 3rd and 23rd March 2006.



RECOMMENDED the information given, be noted.

185. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED, THE COMMITTEE PASSED THE FORMAL RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING, PERSUANT TO THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) ACT 1961 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985.

PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM COUNCILLORS E W HALL AND D COATES DECLARED AN INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM AND TOOK NO PART IN THE DISCUSSION WHICH ENSUED.

186. PETERLEE HELFORD ROAD SPORTS AND COMMUNITY CLUB (FORMER CRICKET CLUB)

The Town Clerk circulated to Members a report relating to the rent review was on the 1st December 2005 for the above building.

RECOMMENDED that, in the light of the Club's current position, it be agreed that the rent be held at the current figure until further discussions had been held with the Club.

187. SHOTTON HALL – BRANDLINGS SUITE - INSTALLATION OF LOOP SYSTEM

Members were circulated with a copy of the report prepared by the Facilities Manager giving details on costings for the installation of a loop system in the Brandlings Suite.

RECOMMENDED that the lowest price submitted by Expressions Media Ltd of Hadfield, Derbyshire be accepted in the sum of £1,277.60.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED that in order to meet the customer's requirement the purchase order be placed

188. OUTSTANDING DEBT – HIRE OF SHOTTON HALL

The Town Clerk gave Members details of an outstanding debt relating to the hire of Shotton Hall and following considerable discussion it was **RECOMMENDED** that the Town Clerk **investigate other ways of dealing with this debt.**

189. ENQUIRY FOR LAND AT SHOTTON HALL

The Town Clerk advised that he had been approached by a well known chain of hotels regarding the development of a hotel on land at Shotton Hall.

RECOMMENDED that this item be referred to the Council Meeting for further discussion.

190. PETERLEE DENE HOUSE SCHOOL – POSSIBLE CLOSURE

The Town Clerk advised receipt of a letter from John Cummings MP advising that like the Town Council he was also concerned regarding Dene House School and that in order to understand the situation more fully he had requested details from the Chief Executive of the County Council. He was awaiting a response. He also understood that the Easington Members Panel had discussed this matter but he had not been officially informed of their deliberations. Upon receipt of further details he would be in a better position to comment upon the various proposals.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk contact Durham County Council regarding Dene House School and the informal reports being given regarding the Building Schools for the Future Finance and Members be duly advised.

191. REQUEST FOR CONCESSIONARY USE OF THE SHOTTON HALL BANQUETING SUITES.

The Town Clerk advised receipt of a request from Mr John Love, Photography for concessionary use of the Banqueting Suites to support the Wedding Exhibition booked for the 9th March 2006.

RECOMMENDED that free use of Shotton Hall Banqueting Suites be granted to Mr John Love for the Wedding Exhibition to be held on 9th March 2006.

192. PETERLEE SHOW 2006 – STAGING

The Town Clerk advised that the Youth Group were not to hold an event on the Sunday of the Show and asked for authority to book the staging for the Saturday only for Peterlee Show.

RECOMMENDED that the authority be given to place an order with Star Mobile Division for a Stage for the Saturday 2nd September 2006 only.

