

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 1ST OCTOBER 2007

PRESENT: COUN. T JONES (CHAIR)

Mesdames: L Wood, J I Measor & J Scott

Messrs: R Jones, J Alvey, W M Jeffrey, J
Hardy, D Langan, C J Metcalfe, C Robbins,
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 START OF THE MEETING THE LEADER
SUGGESTED THAT GET WELL SENTIMENTS BE FORWARDED TO
COUNCILLOR BARRIE SCOTT ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL.

53. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors D
Milsom, M Milsom, G Cowie, H Bennett MBE, R Curtis, B Scott &
M A Cartwright.

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

Matters Arising

(a)In connection with Minute Number 36 – Hill Rigg House – Potential for Use as a Youth Café, the Town Clerk advised following a recent meeting of Youth Service Providers the general view was expressed that there needs to be a “needs assessment” completed and organizations responsible for youth such as the Children’s Board and other similar bodies should be involved from the outset. A small working party was to be set up to look at determining how the needs assessment should be carried out.

RECOMMENDED that further progress be awaited.

(b)In connection with Minute Number 39 – 11 Million Take Over Day, Friday 23rd November 2007 the Town Clerk advised that he was to discuss this further with the Officers of the Pathfinder to see what joint opportunities there were to take part in this event.

RECOMMENDED that progress be awaited.

55. THE NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PETERLEE YOUTH GROUP OF THE 24TH SEPTEMBER 2007 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

56. GRANT AWARD FROM THE COALFIELD REGENERATION TRUST

The Town Clerk was pleased to report that the Town Council had received a grant offer of £85,000 from the Coalfield Regeneration Trust towards the construction of the Multi Use Games Area at Helford Road.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted, and the award accepted.

57. THE CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND - MEMBERSHIP

Consideration was given to an approach made by the Campaign to

Protect Rural England asking if the Town Council would like to become a member at a cost of £27.00 per year.

Following consideration it was **RECOMMENDED that the Town Council become a member of the CPRE at a cost of £27.00.**

58. THE STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND – GUIDANCE ON PREDISPOSITION, PREDETERMINATION OR BIAS AND THE CODE

Members were circulated with information relating to the Code of Conduct the upshot of which was that Councillors were entitled to have and express their own views, as long as they were prepared to reconsider their position in the light of all the evidence or arguments.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

59. GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES DETAILS OF PROPOSALS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF UNITARY AUTHORITIES

Members were circulated with details of a number of proposals for the transition to and implementation of Unitary Authorities throughout the Country. The Town Clerk asked Members to endorse the reply sent, in consultation with the Leader, on the Council's behalf. The response had been that the preferred date for Parish/Town elections was 2013, as it was felt that it was important to maintain continuity at a Local Council level.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted and the action taken in sending the reply, be endorsed.

60. NORTH EAST PEOPLE – WHO'S WHO GUIDE, NORTH EAST PRESS

Both the Council Leader and the Town Clerk had been approached by the Sunderland Echo with an opportunity for inclusion in their new publication, "North East People" a comprehensive Who's Who

Guide currently being prepared by North East Press.

RECOMMENDED that information given be noted and should the Town Clerk or Leader wish to take up this offer, they do so.

61. OFFICER VISIT TO SKELMERSDALE, STUDY TOUR – THURSDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2007

The Town Clerk reported that arrangements had been made for a tour to Skelmersdale which was linked to work on the Peterlee Regeneration Plan. Members asked if the Town Clerk could look into whether or not it would be appropriate for Councillors to be involved in this visit as it was they that ultimately would make decisions on the proposals put forward.

RECOMMENDED that approval be given for the Town Clerk to attend the visit to Skelmersdale on 11th October 2007 and the Town Clerk enquire as to if this was to be extended to include Members.

62. POSTAL VOTES – LARGER LOCAL COUNCIL’S COMMITTEE

A copy of details received regarding the postal voting process to elect members of the NALC Larger Local Council’s Committee for 2007-8&9 was circulated to each Member. The Leader advised that he was up for re-election.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

63. CHOICE BASED LETTINGS – EAST DURHAM HOMES

Members were circulated with details of a new method of allocating social housing being developed by East Durham Homes.

The Choice Based Letting Project manager, Allison Carrahar, offered to attend Town and Parish Council Meetings to explain the

changes in more detail.

RECOMMENDED that an invitation be extended to Ms Allison Carrahar, Choice Based Lettings Project Manager at East Durham Homes to attend a future meeting of the Town Council.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED that any Member wishing to put a particular question to Ms Carrahar about the scheme do so prior to the meeting via the Office to allow a response to be made at the meeting.

64. BUSINESS RATES – 2005 RATING LIST

Consideration was given to an offer made by Storey Sons and Parker to investigate the rateable value of Shotton Hall, Hill Rigg House and 4 Upper Yoden Way Peterlee on the Town Council's behalf.

RECOMMENDED that this offer be taken up.

65. 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.

66. VALUATION OF THE WARDEN'S HOUSE, LOWHILLS ROAD

The Town Clerk gave Members the details of a valuation carried out for this property should it be placed on the market for sale. Members asked if the Town Clerk could obtain a market rental value prior to any decision being made.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk obtain the rental value of the property and report back to Members in due course.

67. HELDFORD ROAD REBUILD – UPDATE

The Town Clerk asked for endorsement of action taken in agreeing the tender list for this work in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader. There was a three week tender period and everything was proceeding on the expected timescale.

RECOMMENDED that the action taken, be endorsed.

68. A1086 THORPE ROAD, EASINGTON – HORDEN – SPEED LIMIT, CONSULATION MEETING, COUNTY HALL, DURHAM

The Town Clerk advised that previously the Town Council had supported Horden Parish Council in their attempt to have a 40mph speed limit implemented. A meeting was to be held on Monday 8th October 2007 at County Hall and the Town Council were invited to be represented. Councillor Alvey confirmed that he was available and willing to attend on the Town Council's behalf.

RECOMMENDED that Councillor Alvey and the Town Clerk attend this meeting on the Town Council's behalf and report back in due course.

69. DISTRICT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2006/07

Members were circulated with the finalized Auditor's Report.

RECOMMENDED that the report be accepted.

70. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS

It was reported that the Town Council's representative on the Executive of the National Association of Councillors had been nominated for the position of Vice Chair at the Conference to be held at Lytham St Anne's on the 5th – 7th October 2007. The Council were to be represented by two Members from the rota but permission was sought for Councillor Measor to be given permission to attend.

RECOMMENDED that authority be given for Councillor Measor to attend this Conference.