

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 5TH NOVEMBER 2007

PRESENT: COUN. R KYLE (CHAIR)

Mesdames: L Wood & M Milsom

Messrs: T Jones, R Jones, J Alvey, W M
Jeffrey, H Bennett MBE, R Curtis, D
Milsom, J Hardy, 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.**

71. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors G
Cowie, B Scott & C Robbins.

72. 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 63 – Choice Based Lettings
- East Durham Homes, Members were advised that Ms Carrahar
from East Durham Homes was to attend the meeting to be held on
the 3rd December 2007 and Members were asked to forward
questions for the representative to the Town Clerk prior to the

meeting.

RECOMMENDED that this course of action be followed.

(b) In connection with Minute Number 68 - A1086 Thorpe Road Easington – a copy of the report following the meeting at County Hall, Durham held on 8th October 2007 had been circulated to each Member.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted and further developments be awaited.

73. REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE OF THE 26TH OCTOBER 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was adopted.

74. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS, BUILDING THE FUTURE OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES – DELEGATE’S REPORT

A copy of the delegate’s report following their attendance at this Conference was circulated for Member’s information.

RECOMMENDED that the contents of the report be noted.

75. THE STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND - TOWN & PARISH STANDARD - SEPTEMBER 2007

Members were circulated with a copy of the September issue of the Town and Parish Standard issued by the Standards Board for England.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

76. LOCAL COUNCIL CHARTER FOR EASINGTON

Members were circulated with information received from the District of Easington relating to the Local Council Charter for Easington. The Town Clerk advised that he was to attend a meeting on the 15th November 2007 on this issue and he asked if Members had any particular comments they advise him prior to the meeting. He could then bring them up at the meeting.

RECOMMENDED that this course of action be followed.

77. DISTRICT OF EASINGTON MINUTES – EXTRACT

Members were circulated with an extract of the minutes from the District of Easington which gave details on a bus shelter to be installed on the Edenhill Estate.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

78. YOUTH ACTIVITY & PROVISION IN PETERLEE, NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1ST OCTOBER 2007

The Town Clerk referred to information on a feasibility/needs study proposed to be carried out into whether a youth café would address some of the needs/issues for youth in Peterlee. As a non service provider, the Pathfinder were looking for a partner organization who could act as the lead partner for the purpose of the feasibility study only.

RECOMMENDED that Peterlee Town Council agree to act as the lead body for this piece of work.

79. DEFRA – “WAYS TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE”

Members were circulated with details received from DEFRA on ways to tackle climate change. The Leader once again expressed how important he felt it was for the Town Council to address this issue.

RECOMMENDED that consideration of this item be deferred to the Council meeting.

80. DURHAM COUNTY LARGER LOCAL COUNCILS FORUM

Members were circulated with a letter received from Shildon Town Council regarding the re-establishment of the Durham County Larger Local Councils Forum and asking for the Town Council's comments on this suggestion. This Council's representatives on the Forum currently were as follows:- Councillors J I Measor, D Langan, D Milsom and W M Jeffrey.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Council strongly support this suggestion and dates for meetings be awaited.

81. REVIEW OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN EAST DURHAM

Members were circulated with a copy of a press release issued by the District of Easington regarding a review of public transport in the area. The Town Clerk asked Members if they had any views to submit these via the Office or directly to stephen.gwillym@easington.gov.uk.

RECOMMENDED that this course of action be followed.

82. OPTION TO TAX – VAT EXEMPTION

Members gave consideration to the report of the Town Clerk regarding the option to tax on Hill Rigg House and Eden Lane Sports & Social Club.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Council opt to tax Hill Rigg House and Eden Lane Sports & Social Club resulting in hirers of these facilities paying vat on any future hirings.

83. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

Members were advised that the initial stage of the review of Polling Districts and Places had now been undertaken and the consultation stage had concluded. A report detailing the local authority proposals along with the Acting Returning Officers' comments had been circulated to Members.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted and no comments be made.

84. AUDITOR'S STATUTORY REPORT ON THE BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2007/08

Members were circulated with a copy of the Auditor's Statutory Report on the Best Value Performance Plan 2007/08. In his report the Auditor had not identified any matters to report to the Council.

RECOMMENDED that the report be accepted.

85. BUSINESS CONTINUITY RISK MANAGEMENT AT PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

Members were circulated with a copy of details of services that were offered by the Council's Insurers in relation to business continuity and risk management. It was noted these proposals carried a 50% discount as a new service pilot.

RECOMMENDED that the services offered by Zurich Municipal be accepted at a cost of £1,400.00.

86. 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.

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

The Town Clerk gave Members details of the market rental value for this property as assessed by the District of Easington. He also reported receipt of a letter expressing an interest in both the leasehold and freehold of the premises from Acre Rigg Social Club.

RECOMMENDED that the property be declared surplus to requirements and be offered for sale on the open market. FURTHER RECOMMENDED that a local estate agent be used to carry out the sale on the Town Council's behalf.

88. PETERLEE FOOTBALL CLUB – OUTSTANDING ACCOUNT

The Town Clerk had circulated for Members a copy of a letter received from the accountants of the former Peterlee Newtown Social Club seeking payments of fees outstanding from the Supporters Club Committee.

RECOMMENDED that this request be refused and an appropriate response be sent on behalf of the Town Council.

89. NORTH EAST INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, PETERLEE – MEMBERS BRIEFING NOTE BY PERSIMMON HOMES

Members were circulated with the briefing note prepared by Persimmon Homes following a recent meeting held at the District of Easington.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

90. PETERLEE REGENERATION, DRAFT DEVELOPMENT BRIEF

The Town Clerk advised that he was expecting a further briefing note on the subject.

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

91. SUN FM IMAGE PLUS PROGRAMME

The Town Clerk asked Members to give consideration to extending the current advertising campaign with Sun FM for a further year from January 2008. He felt that the Town Council needed to continue to advertise to keep the facilities in the minds of potential hirers and ensure future bookings. Members asked if details were still kept on where bookings had come from. They felt it was important to have the details to support spending on future advertising.

RECOMMENDED that :-

- (i) the advertising package with Sun FM at a cost of £385.00 per month be taken up;**
- (ii) staff be required to take details from customers on where they had heard of Shotton Hall;**
- (iii) this be used to submit a regular report on advertising to Members.**

92. ACRE RIGG RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION – FOOTBALL TRAINING

The Local Member, whilst at a recent meeting of this Resident's Association reported that there had been discussion on the provision of football training for both males and females bringing in professionals coaches and support and they asked for assistance with taking this forward.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk liaise directly with the Local Member on this matter.

93. OPENING AND CLOSING ARRANGEMENTS FOR HILL RIGG HOUSE

Details were given of an incident involving the opening and closing of this now Council operated facility. The Town Clerk assured that this would be clarified and corrected.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted.

94. EXPRESSIONS OF CONDOLENCE

RECOMMENDED that a condolence card be sent to Councillor L Hovvells.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED that sympathies be recorded on the Town Council's behalf for those firefighters lost in the recent fire in Warwickshire.

95. MEMBERS AND STAFF CHRISTMAS PARTY

Details were given on this forthcoming event.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk write to all Members and staff re-iterating the Council Policy on the bringing of a partner/family member to the function.