

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 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2007

PRESENT: COUN. R KYLE (CHAIR)

Mesdames: M Milsom, J Scott, L Wood, J I  
Measor

Messrs: D Milsom, D Langan, E W Hall, H  
Bennett (MBE), J Alvey, W M Jeffrey, C J  
Metcalf, R Curtis, J Hardy & R Huitson.

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

96. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors M A  
Cartwright, C Robbins, G Cowie, B Scott, R Jones, T Jones & C  
Austin.

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

Matters Arising

Minute No 78 – Youth Activity & Provision in Peterlee

The Town Clerk gave Members an update on discussions with this project following a meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2007 at the Neighborhood Pathfinder.

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

(b) Minute Number 90 – Peterlee Regeneration – Draft Development Brief

Members were circulated with a copy of the note of the meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2007.

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

(c) Minute Number 91 – Sun FM plus programme

It was noted that at the Council Meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2007, it had been agreed not to take this advertising opportunity up.

The Town Clerk advised Members that a further advertising opportunity was available, as a thankyou to customers during the year.

**RECOMMENDED that this advertising opportunity be taken up at a cost of £140.00 +vat.**

98. CHOICE BASED LETTINGS - EAST DURHAM HOMES

The Chairman welcomed Ms A Carrahar from East Durham Homes who had come along to the meeting to give an update with changes to the housing allocation system that was to be introduced by East Durham Homes in 2008. This type of allocation system was to be introduced compulsorily in 2010. She then went on to explain the process where vacant properties were to be advertised, rather like an estate agent, and then how interested parties could contact the Office to express their interest. The allocations would still continue to be bound by the District of Easington's Allocation Policy and applicants would be banded and a points system used.

The meeting was opened up for a question and answer session where

Members had the opportunity to raise any concerns, constructive comment on the proposals.

In closing, Ms Carrahar thanked Members for their interest in the scheme and asked if she could come along to report on progress to a future meeting. She also extended an invitation for any volunteers to be involved in the Steering Group established to oversee this matter; Councillor Alvey expressed an interest in being involved. The Chairman thanked Ms Carrahar for her informative presentation.

**RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted and Ms Carrahar be invited to a future meeting to advise on progress.**

99. CENTRAL AREA FORUM – MEETING TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2007

Members were advised that the next meeting of the Central Area Forum was to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2007. One item had been submitted by the Town Council the issue of parking on public footpaths.

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

100. THE MINUTES OF THE HELFORD ROAD WORKING PARTY HELD ON THE 27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

101. CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND, (CPRE) – COUNTY DURHAM BRANCH

**RECOMMENDED that consideration of the nomination of a representative to the CPRE be referred to the Council Meeting.**

102. WEEK OF ACTION HIGHLIGHTS IMPROVEMENT WORK – PRESS RELEASE

Members were circulated with a copy of a press release prepared in connection with public sector organizations working in the South of Horden will be joining forces for a Week in Action to raise awareness of their efforts to transform communities in their area. The aim of the week was to make an immediate improvement to long standing problems by involving residents and are tackling them in the most effective way.

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

103. EASINGTON HODS STEERING GROUP, MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 2<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were accepted.

The Town Clerk commented that it was hoped that the Town Council would be involved with the Heritage Open Days once again next year.

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

104. DANGER TO PEDESTRIANS ON BURNHOPE WAY/A19 – LETTER FROM MRS M A SCOTT

Members were circulated with a copy of a letter received via the Local MP for Easington, Mr John Cummings.

Members agreed with the local resident, Mrs Scott, that this was a very important issue and **RECOMMENDED that this matter be taken up with both the County Council as Highways Authority and the Highways Agency to ascertain what could be done to try and alleviate the problems both on Burnhope Way and the A19.**

105. PARTICIPATION ALLOWANCES – TO CONSIDER A 2.475% INCREASE

The Town Clerk asked for Member's consideration of whether to

increase Members Participation Allowances as he understood the District of Easington was proposing a 2,475% increase in line with the local government officer's settlement this year. Members asked if this could be considered in conjunction with the item from the last meeting of Council relating to overnight and traveling allowances etc.

**RECOMMENDED that these issues be considered as a whole at a future meeting.**

106. QUALITY PARISH SCHEME – CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES

Members were circulated with consultation on the proposed changes to the Quality Parish Scheme.

**RECOMMENDED that this matter be referred to the Parks & Cemetery Committee and the Town Clerk prepare a draft response to be circulated at the meeting for approval.**

107. DAMAGE TO CLOTHING – HELFORD ROAD PAVILION

Consideration was given to a claim made following damage to a coat.

Following discussion it was **RECOMMENDED that an offer be made, without prejudice and as a goodwill gesture, of £29.00 and the coat be given in return.**

108. INSURANCE CLAIM BY MR P CLARK – OUTCOME

Members were circulated with details of a claim that had now been settled.

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

109. “GAME ON” 5 A SIDE FOOTBALL

The Town Clerk gave Members details of a scheme to be introduced in the Town that would use the newly purchased mobile training floodlights.

**RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted, and the Council offer their support to this initiative.**