

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 7TH JANUARY 2008

PRESENT: COUN. R KYLE (CHAIR)

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

Messrs: R Kyle, B Scott, T Jones, C Austin, D Milsom, D Langan, E W Hall, H Bennett (MBE), W M Jeffrey, C J Metcalfe, 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.

110. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors M A Cartwright, C Robbins, G Cowie, R Jones & J Alvey.

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

Matters Arising

(a) Minute Number 59 - Quality Parish Scheme – Consultation on Proposed Changes



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To record the decision made at the December Parks Meeting that the Town Clerk's drafted response be agreed.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted.

(b) Minute Number 101 - Campaign To Protect Rural England – County Durham Branch

To note the decision made at the December Council meeting that Cllr C Austin had been nominated to represent the Town Council on this organization.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted.

112. INFORMAL CIVIC RECEPTION – SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL, FRIDAY 25TH JANUARY 2008

Members were asked to advise the Office as soon as possible of their intentions with this invitation.

RECOMMENDED that Members contact the Office regarding this invitation.

113. INVITATION TO VISIT BAESWEILER 31ST JANUARY 2008 – 6TH FEBRUARY 2008

Members were advised of receipt of an invitation to visit Baesweiler on the above dates.

RECOMMENDED that in accordance with existing Council Policy this invitation be declined.

114. DELEGATE'S REPORTS FOLLOWING ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES

(i) NAC, Belfast, 16th – 17th November

(ii) NALC, Quality Counts Conference, Skipton, 23rd – 24th November 2007

RECOMMENDED that the contents of the delegate's reports be noted.

115. EASINGTON AREA ASSOCIATION OF PARISH & TOWN COUNCILS, MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11TH SEPTEMBER 2007

Consideration was given to the report of the above meeting. It was noted that the Town Council was not represented nor apologies submitted to the meeting. Councillor J Scott was the Town Council's representative on this organization.

RECOMMENDED that the Secretary of the Easington Branch be contacted to ensure that the agendas and relevant papers were being forwarded to the Town Council's representative.

116. EXTRACTS FROM THE DISTRICT OF EASINGTON MINUTES

Members were circulated with an extract from the District of Easington Council minutes which related to a joint meeting held to discuss traffic management to and from the Whitehouse and Brackenhill Industrial Parks.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

117. NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAMS

Members were circulated with details of Officers involved with the Neighbourhood Policing Teams.



RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

118. INSURANCE COVER FOR COUNCILLORS

Members were circulated with details supplied by the Council's Insurers confirming the cover provided for Members whilst carrying out Council business. During discussions, a Member gave details of a nearby Parish Council where Members were required to submit details of their personal motor vehicle insurance to the Clerk to ensure they were covered for "business use". The Clerk assured that he would investigate this issue and advise Members in due course.

RECOMMENDED that further information be awaited.

119. WELLFIELD FLY OVER - CASTLE EDEN

The Town Clerk reported that he had spoken to the Clerk of Castle Eden Parish Council regarding this traffic issue. Mr Goodrich had confirmed that the County Council were proposing to put in place two mini roundabouts at this location in an attempt to alleviate the traffic problems experienced with build up on this slip road to the A19.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

120. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES
SUMMARY OF FINAL PROPOSALS

RK

Members were circulated with details of the final proposals following a review of polling districts and polling places and it was noted that no changes were proposed for Peterlee.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

121. CHANGES TO THE AUDIT COMMISSION MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Members were circulated with details of changes to the Audit Commission Management Arrangements.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

122. APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR

Members were circulated with details of the appointment of Mr Steve Nicklin to be the Engagement Lead, (District Auditor) for the Audit of Accounts 2008/09.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

123. DOG CONTROL ORDER – ISSUED AT THE TOWN & PARISH CONSULTATIVE MEETING HELD ON 13TH DECEMBER 2007

The Town Clerk displayed for Members a copy of a map showing that all of Peterlee had been designated as a no dog fouling area under the Dog Control Order; this includes all of the footpaths in CEDNNR.

AK

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

124. PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER, INITIAL CONSULTATION

Members were circulated with a copy of the draft proposals for the introduction of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) on the A1086 the effect of which was to reduce the speed of the road from national speed limit to 40mph. The Town Clerk understood that Horden Parish Council wished this to be extended all along the A1086 but he asked that he be given the opportunity to clarify this and respond accordingly.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Council support this Traffic Regulation Order.

125. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS – NOMINATION TO THE POST OF ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY

Members were advised that at the AGM of the National Association of Councillors in Belfast on 16th November 2007 it was resolved to delete the post of Parliamentary Officer and replace it with an Assistant General Secretary. Nominations were requested for no later than 19th January 2008.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted.

126. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RATING ACT 1997: PARISH REVIEW AND PETITION CASES

RECOMMENDED that this matter be referred to the Council Meeting for consideration.

127. BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE – MEETINGS WITH POTENTIAL BIDDERS – JANUARY 2008

Members were circulated with information regarding bidder meetings for Building Schools for the Future. These would be Officer meetings only and progress would be reported back to Members in due course.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

128. DISC/EASINGTON PATHFINDER'S STRATEGIC VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION

Details were circulated regarding the DISC Easington Pathfinders Strategic Volunteer Development Project and the various training and qualification opportunities available through their organizations.

RECOMMENDED that any Member wishing to get involved/take part, do so.

129. HELDFORD ROAD SCHEME – GRANT AWARD FROM SPORT ENGLAND

Members were circulated with a copy of the details of the grant award of £300,000 from the English Sports Council towards the scheme at Helford Road.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

A.K.

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130. COUNTY DURHAM & DARLINGTON FIRE & RESCUE
AUTHORITY, INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT: DRAFT
YEAR 5 IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Members were circulated with consultation details received from the Chief Executive of the County Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue Service.

RECOMMENDED that no comment be made on the information received.

131. ENGLISH INDICES OF DEPRIVATION 2007

Members were circulated with a copy of a letter from Councillor A Napier reporting that the English Indices of Deprivation have been released for 2007 and that unfortunately they have shown no movement for Easington since the last publication in 2004.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted.

132. FOOTPATH AT LOWHILLS ROAD

Members were circulated with details of approximate costs for the creation of a footpath from Lowhills Road to Hill Rigg House Play Area following a request made by Acre Rigg Residents Association.

RECOMMENDED that the Resident's Association be advised that unfortunately there were not the finances available at this present time to carry out this work.

133. 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.

134. SHOTTON HALL – ANNEXE BUILDING – OCCUPATION BY
SCHOOL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

The Town Clerk asked for approval to extend the office rental agreement for the Schools Sport Partnership on the same terms and conditions, until August 2011.

RECOMMENDED that approval be given for the rental of the Annexe Building, Shotton Hall, for the School Sports Partnership to be extended until August 2011, on the same terms and conditions as currently agreed.

PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM,
COUNCILLOR W M JEFFREY AND H BENNETT MBE DECLARED
AN INTEREST AND TOOK NO FURTHER PART IN THE
DISCUSSION.

135. MR P HEWITSON – 26 SHADFORTH CLOSE

Members were circulated with a copy of a report prepared by the Town Clerk.

RECOMMENDED that the rental for the small parcel of land leased to Mr Hewitson at 26 Shadforth Close be fixed at £5.00 per annum, with no annual increase levied. FURTHER

RK

RECOMMENDED that the rentals for other parcels of land agreed under similar terms to those agreed for Mr Hewitson, 26 Shadforth Close, Peterlee, be retained at the level set at the time of origination.

136. CHRISTMAS PERIOD REFUSE COLLECTION

The Leader of the Council explained that many of the wards in the Town had not received the usual notification of the changes in the Christmas refuse collections made by the District of Easington. Other Members also reported that they had not received any notification either.

RECOMMENDED that this matter be taken up with the District of Easington.

137. CASTLE EDEN GOLF CLUB – EXTENSION OF CAR PARKING FACILITIES

It was reported that an application to make a new car park for the Castle Eden Golf Club opposite the Club House on the other side of the road had been submitted. Members were concerned at the safety issues involved with people using the Club crossing this road and asked that the Town Clerk obtain further details on this matter.

RECOMMENDED that further information be obtained on this matter.

