

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE
ON MONDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2009

PRESENT: COUN C J METCALFE (CHAIR)

Mesdame: L Wood

Messrs: T A Jones, J Alvey, J Hardy, W M
Jeffrey, D Langan, H Bennett MBE, C
Robbins, E W Hall & R Huitson

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

247. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors S
McDonnell, R Jones, M A Cartwright, J Black, G Cowie, D Milsom,
M Milsom and J I Measor.

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

Matters Arising

- (a) Minute Number 231 – Durham Heritage Coast – Annual Forum
2008

- (b) Minute Number 236 – Durham County Council – School Admission Arrangements – September 2010 and beyond

RECOMMENDED that these matters be considered at the next meeting of this Committee.

249. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE OF THE 15TH JANUARY 2009 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member was agreed.

250. SUMMARY OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE UP TO 31ST DECEMBER 2008

Members were circulated with a copy of the summary of income and expenditure from 1st April through to 31st December 2008.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

251. THE STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND, THE BULLETIN, DECEMBER 2008

Members were circulated with a copy of the latest bulletin received from the Standards Board for England.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

252. BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDEN PARTY

Members were advised that the Lord Chamberlain had invited the County Durham Association of Local Councils to allocate 4 spaces for the Buckingham Palace Garden Party on Tuesday 14th July 2009. Nominations were requested for no later than 27th February 2009.

Nominations received would be chosen at random at the CDLAC Executive Committee on 3rd March 2009.

Any Member wishing to be put forward their names were asked to notify the Town Clerk, it being noted that if they were successful they would attend at their own expense.

RECOMMENDED that Members advise the Clerk as soon as possible if they wished to be nominated for one of the four places to attend the Buckingham Palace Garden Party on 14th July 2009.

253. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS ANNUAL CONFERENCE & AGM, 14TH – 16TH NOVEMBER 2008 – DELEGATE’S REPORT

Members were circulated with a copy of the Delegate’s Report following their attendance at this Conference.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

254. DRAFT RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION: COMMUNITIES IN CONTROL; REAL PEOPLE, REAL POWER: CODE OF RECOMMENDED PRACTICE ON LOCAL AUTHORITY PUBLICITY

The Town Clerk circulated a suggested draft response to this consultation on a revised recommended Code of Practice on Local Authority Publicity.

RECOMMENDED that the draft response be agreed and sent on behalf of the Town Council.

255. NALC BRIEFINGS

(i) Power of Well Being

Members gave further consideration to details on the Power of Well Being and a copy of the Order which detailed the conditions a Parish Council must satisfy if it wished to qualify as an “eligible Parish

Council” entitled to exercise the power of well being.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

(ii) Should the Voting Age be reduced to 16

Members were circulated with a copy of a response by NALC on behalf of their membership on the consultation as to whether or not the voting age should be reduced to 16. It was reported that members were split on the proposal.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

256. SEAHAM SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY – DISPLAY OF
OUTLINE PLANS – OPEN INVITATION

Members were circulated with an invitation to attend an open evening to view and comment on the outline plans for the proposed site for Seaham School of Technology in advance of them being submitted for outline planning permission. Seaham School of Technology is to be built as one of the first phase of schools in the Building Schools For The Future Programme.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

257. 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.

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

258. FIRE RISK ASSESSMENTS

RECOMMENDED that approval be given for Fire Risk Assessments to be carried out by Peterlee Fire Company at a cost of £750.00 plus vat.

259. COMPLAINT BY MRS LYNN – FUNCTION – 25TH MAY 2008

RECOMMENDED that the acceptance by Mrs Lynn in full and final settlement of her complaint, be noted.

260. CASTLE EDEN DENE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Members were circulated with a copy of an e mail sent by Councillor David Taylor-Gooby as Chairman of the Joint Management Committee to all interested parties regarding the future arrangements for the Management of Castle Eden Dene following Local Government Review.

RECOMMENDED that progress be awaited.

261. TRAFFIC ISSUES – EAST DURHAM COLLEGE

Members were circulated with a copy of a letter received from Durham County Council following discussions on traffic problems relating to East Durham College.

Suggestions were given for managing the traffic and parking in the area which would be pursued further.

In considering this matter reference was made to parking problems with school gate parking at the new school in Edenhill. It was suggested that a letter be sent to Durham County Council on this matter.

**RECOMMENDED progress on the College Site be awaited.
FURTHER RECOMMENDED that a letter be sent regarding
concerns on the parking at the new school.**

262. HILL RIGG HOUSE – LONG TERM USE

The Town Clerk reported several expressions of interest had been received to use Hill Rigg House on a long term basis. He asked for approval to investigate this further and make a report to Council.

**RECOMMENDED that this course of action be agreed and a
report be awaited.**

263. NETWORKING EVENING – FIVE LARGER LOCAL COUNCILS

The Mayor asked for consideration of hosting a networking evening for the Five Larger Local Councils.

RECOMMENDED that this be arranged.