

ON MONDAY 6TH JULY 2009

PRESENT: COUN T A JONES (CHAIR)

Mesdames: S McDonnell, L Wood, J I Measor & M Milsom

Messrs: H Bennett MBE, R Kyle, W M Jeffrey, R Curtis, D Langan, R Huitson, D Milsom, C Austin & E W Hall

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

28. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted and accepted on behalf of Councillors G Cowie, J Hardy, C J Metcalfe, J Black and M A Cartwright

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

Matters Arising

- (a) Minute Number 3 – AAP Inaugural Events - Summary

18AS

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMM OF THE 6TH JULY
2009

Members were circulated with a copy of the summary report following the inaugural meeting of the East Durham Area Action Partnership.

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

(b) Minute Number 24 – Asda Store

Members were advised that it had been confirmed by the Pest Control Officer that there was not a problem in the Town Centre. It was noted current building works may affect the situation.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

(c) Minute Number 25 – Peterlee Football Club – Internal Audit Report

The Clerk asked Members of the Internal Audit Sub Committee for an indication of their availability for a meeting to discuss the winding up of the Association which was subsequently agreed by the membership.

RECOMMENDED that this sub committee be convened on Wednesday 15th July 2009 at 7.00pm.

(d) Minute Number 26 – Eden Lane Community Association

The Clerk advised that he had attended the recent Special Meeting of the Association along with the Council Leader. The meeting had been convened by the Trustees to discuss the trusteeship and their commitments.

The Town Clerk advised that he has received a reply from Durham County Council with regard to the expression of interest in the building which he intended to report fully to the Parks & Cemetery Meeting.

RECOMMENDED that Durham County Council be asked what their policy was in general for all of the Community Buildings in East Durham now in their ownership

30. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE OF THE 18TH JUNE 2009 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

31. NAME CHANGES – GROUNDWORK EAST DURHAM & CAB

Details of the change of name from East Durham Groundwork Trust to Groundwork East Durham were circulated to each Member.

It was also reported that Easington & District Citizens Advice Bureau would be transferring its assets and obligations to East Durham Citizens Advice Bureau to make the organization a limited company.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

32. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF NALC AWARDED OBE

Members were circulated with information advising that Mr John Findlay, Chief Executive of the National Association of Local Councils had been awarded an OBE.

RECOMMENDED that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to Mr Findlay, OBE.

33. ENLARGED LARGER LOCAL COUNCILS FORUM

Members were circulated with a copy of correspondence from CDALC advising that as agreed at the last County Durham Larger Local Councils Forum, the forum would invite all Parish & Town Councils in County Durham who had either a) a budget of over £250,000 and/or b) a population of over 6,000, to join them in an enlarged forum.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

JAS

34. SUMMER PARKS INSPECTIONS

RECOMMENDED that two visits be arranged for the Summer parks inspections and invitations be sent out in due course.

35. FURTHER ELECTORAL REVIEW OF COUNTY DURHAM

Members were circulated with a copy of a reply received from the Boundary Committee for England following comments being submitted by the Town Council.

RECOMMENDED that progress be awaited.

36. INTERNAL AUDIT - QUERY REGARDING CHEQUE SIGNING PROCESS

Members were circulated with a copy of advice given by Internal Audit following a query regarding the cheque signing process adopted by the Town Council.

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

37. LETTERS OF COMPLAINT – HELFORD ROAD

A letter of complaint received from two residents of Helford Road were circulated to Members along with letters sent to the Football, Rugby and Cricket Clubs. The Town Clerk also reported that he had discussed this matter with the Police and East Durham Homes. It was also suggested that the Town Council's security patrol be requested to record any evidence of incidents. The residents that made the complaint appreciated the Town Council's efforts to resolve the matter and had reported that there had been no recent incidents.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

38. 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.

39. ON SITE SECURITY OFFICER – THE PAVILION

A copy of the proposal submitted by Steadfast Security was circulated to each Member. It was agreed that this was a very keen price.

RECOMMENDED that endorsement of the action taken in accepting this proposal on the Town Council's behalf, be given, it being noted that this cost should be coded against the new building.

40. PETERLEE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP – TERMINATION OF LICENCE AT SHOTTON HALL

Members were circulated with a copy of a letter from the Peterlee Education Partnership advising that unfortunately from 31st August 2009 they would be no longer operating and would need to terminate their licence agreement with the Town Council.

The Town Clerk gave brief details on discussions with a possible new tenant.

RECOMMENDED that further developments be awaited.

Handwritten signature

41. SCOUTS ANNUAL YEAR BOOK - ADVERT

The Town Clerk asked for consideration in placing an advert in the Scouts Annual Year Book at a cost of £95.00.

RECOMMENDED that an advert be placed in this publication.

42. ADULTS, WELLBEING & HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH DAY SERVICES, PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO IN-HOUSE SERVICES

A Local Member referred to this document which he had been given during his visit to Horizon at Lee House, Peterlee. He felt this Council should take a close interest in this matter and gave details of an invitation for any Member to go along to Horizon on Thursday 9th July 2009, at 12.00 noon when the author of the report would be on site.

RECOMMENDED that this report be copied and circulated with the Parks & Cemetery agenda.

43. HERITAGE CENTRE

A Local Member asked what was to happen to the flag flown at the recent event held to honour those connected to the Armed Forces. It was suggested that it could be awarded to a veteran or perhaps be kept by the Town Council as an artifact of the Town's history.

During discussions reference was made to the Heritage Centre and to memorabilia collected over the years and whether or not this would be developed further in the future. It was also suggested that some of this material could be used on a regular basis by the Information Centre in their window displays.

RECOMMENDED that this matter be referred to the Council