

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2010

PRESENT: COUN C J METCALFE (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- S McDonnell, L Wood, J I Measor,

Messrs:- T A Jones, J Alvey, H Bennett MBE, J Hardy,
W M Jeffrey, C Watkins, R Huitson & D Milsom

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

111. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted and accepted from Councillors R W Jones, (car snowed in), G Cowie, (flu), and C Robbins, (parent in hospital).

112. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Matters Arising

(i) Minute Number 91 – Purchase of a TV/DVD

At The Pavilion Management Board Meeting it was reported that there were no monies in the budget for this purchase; a donation of £150 had been offered from the bar users and Peterlee Pumas. This was accepted and it was agreed the Town Council would fund the installation of the equipment.

(ii) Minute Number 91 - Request to Open Christmas Day

At the Pavilion Management Board Meeting held on 2nd November 2010 it was agreed that the bar would be opened from 11.00am – 1.30pm.

113. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE MEETING OF 18TH NOVEMBER 2010, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

114. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION – SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS SEPTEMBER 2012/13

The Town clerk circulated the criteria for admissions for 2012/13 Member's consideration.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be received.

115. SECTION 137 EXPENDITURE: LIMIT FOR 2011/12

The Town Clerk reported the appropriate sum for 2011/12 was £6.44 per head which had been confirmed by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

116. PARISH & TOWN COUNCIL SUB COMMITTEE OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Town Clerk reported receipt of a letter from Durham County Council asking if the Town Council would find further training or other assistance on standards, useful.

RECOMMENDED this matter received further consideration at the Council Meeting, and the Town Clerk find out who the representatives on this committee are.

117. NALC E BULLETIN - NOVEMBER

Extracts of this bulletin were circulated for each Member's information. The Town Clerk advised the content of the first item on this bulletin was exactly the same message as given at the NALC Larger Local Councils Conference held the previous week in London.

RECOMMENDED that the Bulletin be received.

118. INVITATION TO ATTEND A STROKE SERVICES ENGAGEMENT EVENT – RAMSIDE HALL DURHAM, WEDNESDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2010, 10 – 3.30PM

Details of this open invitation were given to Members.

RECOMMENDED any Councillors C J Metcalfe and J I Measor attend this event on behalf of the Town Council.

119. SUMMARY INCOME & EXPENDITURE BY BUDGET HEADING – COST CENTRE REPORT

The Town Clerk had circulated at the meeting an amended version of this report. He also advised that Managers of the Town Council were currently preparing budgets for 2011/12 onwards and he had asked Managers to also re-calculate 2010/11 estimates. Until the exercise had been completed he asked for Members agreement to put in place a moratorium on non committed expenditure.

RECOMMENDED that a moratorium be placed on any non essential expenditure.

120. PROTECTING THE PUBLIC PURSE 2010 – FIGHTING FRAUD AGAINST LOCAL GOVERNMENT & LOCAL TAXPAYERS – AUDIT COMMISSION 2010

The Town Clerk highlighted to Members some of the case studies given in the report.

RECOMMENDED that the report be received.

121. PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL 2009/10 AUDIT – ADDITIONAL FEE AND ISSUES ARISING FROM FIRST YEAR FRSEE ACCOUNTS

The Town Clerk circulated to the Committee the Audit Commission letter detailing why additional fees had been charged. The Clerk had also circulated the consultant's response on this, and other matters arising from this year's closure of the accounts, which he intended taking up with Audit Commission management in London.

The Town Clerk advised he had already expressed his concerns to the Head of Local Government Section at the Audit Commission who he met at the recent Larger Local Councils Conference. A Local Member expressed the view that if the Audit Commission believe that staff incorrectly charged additional fees, the Town Council should be refunded.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

122. PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER, INTITAL CONSULTATION – UNCLASSIFIED DURHAM WAY

Given the feed back from residents to local councillors, it was suggested that the County Council be asked to consider holding a public meeting to determine resident's views on this proposal.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk send an appropriate reply.

123. STOCKTAKE SUMMARY SHEETS

Members were circulated with a copy of stock take sheets for the three licensed premises belonging to the Town Council.

RECOMMENDED that the stock take reports be accepted, but more detailed reasons be given in relation to wastages, and the

question of losses due to beer standing in the lines be taken up with the brewery.

124. PRICING – NEW YEAR’S EVE TICKETS 2011

RECOMMENDED that the price of tickets for New Year 2011 be retained at £26.00.

125. SHOTTON HALL ROOF REPAIRS

RECOMMENDED that the action taken in placing an order for urgent temporary roof repairs, in consultation with the Leader, be endorsed.