

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2011

PRESENT: COUN L WOOD (CHAIR)

Mesdames: M Milsom, S McDonnell & J Black

Messrs: J Alvey, C J Metcalfe, H Bennett MBE, W M Jeffrey,
C Watkins, R Huitson, D Milsom & D Langan

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

80. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted and accepted from Councillors
G Cowie (asthma), E W Hall (ill), C Robbins (holiday), and T A Jones
(on holiday).

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

Matters Arising

(i) Minute Number 61 – Halloween Party Budget 2011

Consideration was given to the balance sheet prepared following this
event. It was noted that all of the staffing costs had not been included,
the bar staff wages had not been recorded in with the events cost.

RECOMMENDED:-

**(a) prior to any Town Event/Activity being organised a pre event
business case be submitted to Members for approval;**

(b) all staffing costs and income be included for future events' balance sheets.

(ii) Minute Number 65 – Durham Illuminaire, (mini luminaires at Shotton Hall) – Information

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that she had not been able to find information out on the event other than it had only been provisionally booked to be held at Shotton Hall and was no longer required.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

(iii) Minute Number 67 – Amendments Proposed by the government relating to the carers allowance contained within the Welfare Reform Bill – Letter from Maria Miller MP for Disabled People

A copy of the further reply from the local MP Grahame Morris, and from Maria Miller MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for Disabled People, was circulated for the attention of all Members. Members were extremely dissatisfied with the responses and totally disagreed with the sentiments expressed in them. It was also suggested that the “About Town” publication be used to draw attention to important issues such as these that would have an impact on residents of Peterlee.

RECOMMENDED that a further letter be sent expressing the Town Council's concerns on this issue to go to the Minister and Grahame Morris, (with a copy sent to the Councillor Tony Cooke, (Teesdale area), and contact also be made with Age UK on their feelings on the issue.

(iv) Minute Number 77 – Town Centre Clock - Progress

The Deputy Town Clerk gave Members a progress report with this matter. Unfortunately the cost of insuring the crane had been omitted from the original price given, negotiations were ongoing with the contractor as to who would pay this cost. The Deputy Town Clerk would attempt to negotiate a lower price for the insurance.

RECOMMENDED the work proceed as planned on 11th December 2011.

82. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 17TH NOVEMBER 2011 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

There were several queries on the payments made and particularly on repair works undertaken at Woodhouse Park. The need to obtain three prices for works and they be fully backed up with a detailed works purchase order was stressed.

RECOMMENDED that a full report be made on the vandalism at Woodhouse Park, and this also be the subject of an appropriate press release/or to be included in the next edition of About Town.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED a full review of security issues in and around Council land, equipment and buildings be undertaken as a matter of urgency with a view to ensuring the best possible security provision, at the best possible cost.

83. THE LATEST NEWS ABOUT DIGITAL TV SWITCHOVER

Members were circulated with information relating to the digital switch over which was to take place in September 2012. It was suggested that information on this issue be publicised in the next edition of the “About Town” publication.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted and details relating to the switchover be included in the next edition of the About Town parish magazine.

84. DURHAM ASSOCIATION NEWS, ISSUE 37 – NOVEMBER 2011

Members were circulated with a copy of this issue of the newsletter.

RECOMMENDED that the information contained in this edition, be noted.

85. LARGER LOCAL COUNCILS FORUM, MINUTES OF THE
MEETING OF THE 19TH AUGUST 2011

Members were circulated with a copy of the minutes from this meeting held in August 2011. There was discussion on the item relating to the “Leader’s motion” that had been approved and was now NALC policy. It was also confirmed that the Town Council’s representatives at this meeting were Councillors J I Measor, W M Jeffrey, the Town Clerk with Councilors D Milsom and D Langan as reserves.

RECOMMENDED the Town Clerk contact the CDALC Secretary regarding the possibility of better highlighting and reporting on all outstanding actions in future minutes.

86. DIS EXTRA – NALC’S DIRECT INFORMATION SERVICE –
ISSUE 771

Members were advised of receipt of this circular which included the following issues:- cabinet office launches supporters of Community Resilience project; the Princes Trust launches new community scheme on Neighbourhood Planning; localisation of Council Tax Benefit an “illusion” says MPs; response to White Paper on individual electoral registration; Government launches renewable heat premium payment scheme; MP warns over rural bus services; “vital” contribution of village halls; £80m community fund launched; Government seeks urban forum advice to deliver localism and big society; Community schemes “can replace withdrawn bus services”.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted.

87. SECTION 116 HIGHWAYS ACT 1980, UNCLASSIFIED ROAD,
EASINGTON DISTRICT – PROPOSED STOPPING UP OF THE
HIGHWAY ADJACENT TO NUMBER 1 TO 33 YODEN WAY
PETERLEE

Members were advised of receipt of this proposal. In considering the information Members asked if further detail could be obtained to allow them to consider this more fully.

RECOMMENDED that a holding objection be submitted to Durham County and upon receipt of further details Members consider this proposal and respond to Durham County Council.

88. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION – SCHOOL
ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS SEPTEMBER 2013/14

Members were circulated with details in the above regard.

RECOMMENDED that no observations or comments be forwarded to Durham County Council on these arrangements.

89. COMMUNITY BUILDINGS CONSULTATION – VISITS TO DCC
OWNED BUILDINGS – PRIDE HOUSE EDENHILL –
WEDNESDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2011 AT 9.30am

Members were advised of this visit and details of a further visit to Fairclough Court which had been given to the Ward Members.

RECOMMENDED that outcomes be awaited.

90. REVIEW OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE –
CONSULTATION

Members were circulated with details of this review of household waste recycling centre in Durham County. It was noted that the centre in Horden and Seaham were not affected, although Thornley was to be closed.

RECOMMENDED that no comment or observation be offered on this consultation document.

91. COST SAVING – PRINTING OF AGENDAS

Members were asked to approve a cost cutting exercise for the printing of committee paperwork which would result in a cost saving of around £750.00 per year.

RECOMMENDED that this course of action be approved.

92. ELECTORAL REVIEW OF COUNTY DURHAM: FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Members were circulated with the final recommendations of the Boundary Commission following their electoral review of County Durham.

RECOMMENDED that the report be received.

93. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED, THE COMMITTEE PASSED THE FORMAL RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING, PURSUANT TO THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) ACT, 1961 & THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985.

94. STOCK TAKE – LICENSED PREMISES

Consideration was given to the stock take report for both Shotton Hall and The Pavilion.

RECOMMENDED that the reports be accepted and the Town Clerk be given authority to ensure that the necessary arrangements were in place for the installation of new tills and completion of goods received books at Shotton Hall Banqueting Suites.

95. BOWLING GREEN FEES – MEETING WITH THE BOWLERS

Consideration was given to the report of the meeting held with the bowlers on 29th November 2011.

RECOMMENDED:-

- (i) a 10% increase be levied on the fees requested for 2011/12 making the total fee £486.00;**
- (ii) the fees for 2012/13 increase to £500.00;**
- (iii) the Bowling Clubs be approached to be partners in grant funding applications, where appropriate.**