

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PETERLEE INFORMATION  
CENTRE COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL,  
PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 14<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2011

PRESENT: COUN. R CURTIS (CHAIR)

Mesdames: L Wood, J I Measor & S McDonnell

Messrs: J Hardy, T Jones, C J Metcalfe,  
R Kyle, C Austin, C Robbins,  
W M Jeffrey, H Bennett MBE,  
R Huitson, J Alvey & D Langan

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

9. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors; R Jones (heart problems), G Cowie (sore throat) and E W Hall (stroke).

**RECOMMENDED that these apologies be accepted.**

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

11. THE MANAGER'S PROGRESS REPORT, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was considered under the following headings:-

a) EVENTS

1.1 Christmas Events

1.1.1 East Durham Women's Refuge

A large number of gifts had been collected for this organisation to distribute amongst women and children who found themselves in the refuge over the festive period together with some gifts also being distributed amongst women and children who had recently been re-homed.

**RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.**

1.1. 2 Santa's Postbox

Approximately 30 no. Santa's letters were received and responded to personally.

**RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.**

1.2 Easter Egg Competition

Asda had been approached asking if they would like to sponsor this competition as in previous years. As soon as this had been confirmed, publicity would be distributed amongst Peterlee venues where children tended to congregate, i.e, schools, youth clubs, community centres etc.

**RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.**

1.3 St. George's Day

As requested at the last meeting, letters had been sent to schools asking if they would like to become involved with St. George's Day celebrations. Shotton Hall School were able to stage a ten minute performance similar to last year's show. St. Bede's Comprehensive were unable to contribute due to the date of the event falling during the Easter holidays.

The Pavilion had been provisionally reserved for the Town Council for the day and evening of Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2011 should they wish to stage an event this year.

Members gave the following suggestions;-

Children's Dance Show

Martial Arts Show

Fancy dress

College Theatre/Youth Bands

Councillor J I Measor was involved with a Dance troop who would be willing to do a performance, there were 45 no. children in the troop.

Tie this event in with the Poppy Appeal, the Royal British Legion (Peterlee Branch) be contacted.

**RECOMMENDED that the Manager make further investigations as to the above suggested ideas and they be further considered at the Full Council meeting.**

## 2.0 TOURISM DEVELOPMENTS

As Members were aware, ONE North East Development Agency was due to demise from April, 2011, thus the links previously had with the Tourism Team and Visit Britain had, for all intents and purposes, now disappeared. 'Visit Durham' in conjunction with Durham County Council were now dealing with tourism issues throughout the County.

The Clerk and Manager recently met with the Chief Executive of Visit Durham and Martin Boulton, Tourism Officer from Durham County Council, when the future roles of various organisations were discussed, albeit, with uncertainty at the present time.

A certain fact was that changes in the way tourism was handled were inevitable and the 6 no. Tourist Information Centre premises operated by Durham County Council were to be disbanded, with the exception of Bishop Auckland which, it was hoped would continue to occupy the Library premises. This was not to say that Information Services were to be dissolved, in fact, the contrary may be the case. Due to financial cutbacks of 50%, alternative ways were sought to provide essential information in the most economical way possible, this may include transferring staff knowledge and expertise to other venues, for example, libraries, museums and other points of high tourism footfall. Many

discussions were required in order to get the balance right and there was no simple solution.

‘Visit Durham’ aimed to support information provision, although not in a financial sense. The organisation would assist and support information providers and businesses which were thought to be of benefit to the tourist industry.

Members would be kept informed of developments within ‘Visit Durham’ and how their strategies may affect the information.

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

12. STATISTICS, INCOME & COMMISSION

A copy of the above reports had been circulated to Members for their information.

**RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.**

13. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM TO BE DISCUSSED, THE COMMITTEE WERE ASKED TO PASS THE FORMAL RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING, PURSUANT TO THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) ACT 1961 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT 1985)

14. REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE – AUTOMATED ENTRANCE DOOR PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT (PMA)

It was reported the maintenance agreement for the entrance doors to the Centre was due for renewal.

The Manager advised she had requested prices for this service from three Companies, and had received them, however, prior to the Meeting, the Manager had received additional information relating to one of the quotations and asked that this item be deferred to the Full Council Meeting for consideration.

**RECOMMENDED that this item be deferred to the Full Council Meeting.**