

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 21ST AUGUST 2006

PRESENT: COUN R Kyle (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- J I Measor & A E Laing

Messrs: - C J Metcalfe, R Jones, W M Jeffrey, R Huitson, G Calvert, T Jones, D Coates, R Curtis, H Bennett MBE, B Joyce & B Scott

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE QUESTIONS/ADDRESS THE COUNCIL. THERE WERE NO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT.

87. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors C Robbins, E W Hall, A Lowden, D Milsom, M Milsom and M A Cartwright.

88. POLICE UPDATE

Unfortunately the Police were not in attendance at the meeting. The Leader had several issues that had arisen from the recent Parks Inspection, one of which was Woodhouse Park, and he asked that a special meeting be arranged with the Town Clerk, Leader and the Police.

RESOLVED that a meeting be arranged as a matter of urgency with the Police.

PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM, COUNCILLOR J I MEASOR DECLARED AN INTEREST IN THE ITEM AND TOOK NO PART IN THE DISCUSSION WHICH ENSUED.

89. PROPOSALS FOR A BMX TRACK – EDEN LANE

The Chairman welcomed Steve Armstrong from Groundwork East Durham, to the meeting. Mr Armstrong gave the background to the work carried out by Groundwork and then went on to give details of the proposal that had originated from the young people in Edenhill for a BMX/bike track. He, along with the Town Clerk, had looked at several potential sites and a plan was circulated with three sites identified. The preferred site was No. 3, behind the pitch of Newtown Football Club. Mr Armstrong asked for Member's views. Groundwork Trust had a grant of £25,000 available to the Town Council for the project. The Town Council owned the land and would be required to take on the insurance liability and the maintenance of the site.

Members felt that this was an excellent proposal but were concerned that there was a potential for misuse by motorcycles and asked how this might be best prevented. The Town Clerk suggested that the site could be fenced as a further phase and constructed so that motor cycles could not gain access. This would have a cost and could not be financed by grant monies. It was suggested that those Members that had not already done so may wish to visit the site. Members also felt that the track should join up. Mr Armstrong explained that the design was taken from BMX Association guidelines but that the track could be joined up if the Council wished it to be.

RESOLVED that the Town Council give their approval to this scheme and meet the shortfall in financing the project, including fencing, and approval be given for Groundwork East Durham to submit a planning application for the scheme to the District of Easington.

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

Matters Arising

Minute Number 61 – Consultation Document on the Proposal to Build One Secondary School in Peterlee

Members were circulated with information received from Durham County Council giving details of the impact of new housing on projected pupil numbers in schools.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk write back to Durham County Council explaining that the information forwarded was irrelevant to Peterlee as it was based on information relating to Seaham.

91. THE REPORT OF THE MAYORS COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 17TH JULY 2005, a copy which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 20 – Charity Physic/Indian Head Massage Evening, following considerable discussion it was **RESOLVED that this matter be referred to a future meeting for further discussion.**

92. THE REPORT OF THE SHOW COMMITTEE HELD ON 27th JULY, 2006, a copy which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

93. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Planning applications submitted to the District of Easington had been circulated to each Member for their consideration.

RESOLVED that no observations be made on the applications received.

94. SHOTTON HALL STOCKTAKE SUMMARY – STOCKTAKER'S REPORT OF 19TH JULY 2006

The Stocktaker's Report for the period ending 19th July 2006, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was received.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

95. LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY – A TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL GUIDE

Members were circulated with a copy of the above document.

RESOLVED that the document be received and noted.

96. LICENSING ACT 2003 – PREMISES LICENCE, HELFORD SPORTS PITCHES

Members were advised that the Premises Licence had been received for Helford Road the sports pitches for the Show weekend.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

97. CONSULTATION ON ISSUES AND OPTIONS FOR THE EASINGTON DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK & THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL SCOPING REPORT

Members were circulated with details relating to the above.

RESOLVED that the Town Council support the contents of the documents.

98. ASSOCIATION OF LARGER LOCAL COUNCILS - MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON 16TH JUNE 2006

The Leader of the Town Council gave further details on recent discussions at the meeting of the Executive Committee and reported that Seaham Town Council, along with other Councils, have withdrawn from their membership of the Association.

The next meeting is to be held on the 8th September 2006 and the Leader asked for permission for the Town Clerk to attend the meeting as the current "administrator" was on holiday.

RESOLVED that authority be given for both the Leader and the Town Clerk to attend the meeting of the ALLC Executive to be held on the 8th September 2006.

99. CLOSURE OF ACCOUNTS 2005/06 AMENDED – BALANCE SHEET - RESIGNING

The Town Clerk asked for authority for the Chairman and Town Clerk to re-sign the balance sheet following an amendment being made to the accounts.

RESOLVED that authority be given for the Chairman to re-sign the balance sheet for the accounts for 2005/2006.

100. SUMMARY OF INTERNAL AUDIT WORK FOR 2005/2006

Members were circulated with a summary of internal audit work carried out by the District of Easington Internal Audit Section for the Town Council during 2005/06.

RESOLVED that information contained within the summary, be noted.

101. LIFE PARK CONSULTATION - REPRESENTATION

The Town Clerk advised that B3 Burgess Consultants had been appointed to carry out further work to produce a business plan for the

above development and he had been suggested as the Town Council's representative on the steering group.

RESOLVED that authority be given for the Town Clerk to represent the Town Council on the steering group for the Life Park Consultation.

102. LIVEABILITY – LAND & BUILDINGS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

Members were asked if they were able to identify any land and buildings in our area that were cause for concern or required attention. It was reported that the District Council are now producing a delivery framework which would outline how priority sites will be dealt with, and to inform activity when additional resources become available.

RESOLVED that the following areas be identified to the District Council for attention:-

The Pop in Centre

Planting around the former Arriva office

SSSI Site at Yoden Village Eden Lane – interpretation Boards

Reg Vardy Garage Passfield Way – taking transporters off the highway

Fly tipping in the Dene Area to the rear of Church Close

103. PETERLEE RESIDENTIAL MASTERPLAN – DROP IN EXHIBITIONS

Members were circulated with details of Drop In Exhibitions being held in connection to the Peterlee Residential Masterplan. These proposals were to be exhibited at the Peterlee Show in the Community Life Marquee.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

104. NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CENTRAL AREA FORUM, HELD ON THE 26TH JULY 2006

Members were circulated with a summary of the items discussed at the last meeting of the Central Area Forum. In considering the item relating to the Town Centre Members asked that the Town Clerk contact the Town Centre Manager regarding two issues; 1) the parking of vans etc near to the steps on market days and 2) asking for pavement markings to assist partially sighted when approaching steps/ramps in the Centre.

RESOLVED that these items be forwarded on to the Town Centre Manager with a request for action.

105. NOTES OF THE MEETING REGARDING EASTFIELD/THORNTREE GILL, TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT HELD ON THE 3RD AUGUST 2006

Members were circulated with a copy of the notes following this meeting. In considering the report Members asked for assurances that this road would not be closed off and subject to a Road Closure Order as had happened with Ellison Road. The Town Clerk advised that 20mph speed limits may be a way forward. This would need the co-operation of the District of Easington in relation to the placement of signage.

RESOLVED that progress with this matter be awaited and in any discussions the Town Council seek reassurances that this road would not be closed.

106. REQUESTS FOR CONCESSIONARY USE

(i) Holidays At Home, Helford Road Cricket Club, 25th August 2006

Consideration was given to this request for concessionary use of Helford Road Pavilion.

RESOLVED that free use of Helford Road Pavilion be agreed for the Holidays at Home Project.

- (ii) St Anne's Community Services (North East), Charity Football Match, 26th August 2006

Consideration was given to this request for concessionary use of Helford Road Football Ground for a charity football match on the 26th August 2006.

RESOLVED that free use of the football ground be agreed.

- (iii) Sportsman's Dinner – Friday 22nd September 2006, Joint Event, Mayor of Peterlee & Chairman of District of Easington

Consideration was given to this request for concessionary use of Shotton Hall Banqueting Suites for a jointly organized Sportsmans Dinner by the Mayor of Peterlee and the Chairman of the District of Easington to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

RESOLVED that free use be granted for this function, and this be taken from the allocation made to the Mayor.

107. LETTERS OF THANKS & APPRECIATION – P BOYES

The Town Clerk advised receipt of a letter of thanks following the donation made in lieu of flowers to the Alzheimers Research Fund.

RESOLVED that the letter be received.

108. ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

- (i) The Corporate Times

The Town Clerk asked for endorsement of action taken in placing an advert in the Corporate Times at a cost of £90.00.

RESOLVED that the action taken, be endorsed.

(ii) The Peterlee Guide

The Town Clerk asked for endorsement of action taken in placing an advert in the Peterlee Guide at a cost of £400.00.

RESOLVED that the action taken, be endorsed.

109. 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, PERSUANT TO THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS)ACT 1961 & THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT

110. MEETING WITH ROB CHAPMAN RE PETERLEE NORTH PATHFINDER HELD ON 11TH AUGUST 2006

Members were circulated with a brief update on what was happening with the Pathfinder.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

111. EDEN LANE FOOTBALL CLUB – RENEWAL OF PIPEWORK TO HEATING SYSTEM

The Town Clerk asked for endorsement of action taken in arranging for an emergency repair to be made to pipework at Peterlee Football Club.

RESOLVED that standing orders be waived and the action taken in carrying out emergency replacement repairs to the pipework at Peterlee Football Club at a cost of £3,366.37 be endorsed.

112. APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY ADDITIONAL CLEANER

RESOLVED that the action taken by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Leader and Chairman of the Establishment Committee in appointing a temporary cleaner, 12 hours per week, for a period of three months until the existing working arrangements could be reviewed, be endorsed.

113. REQUEST TO PURCHASE OR LEASE LAND AT EDENHILL

Consideration was given to the report of the Town Clerk regarding the claw-back arrangement on this land.

RESOLVED that, in view of the advice given, the Council maintain its existing policy and refuse the request to purchase or lease land at Edenhill.

114. YOUTH POD

Members were circulated with a request from the Youth Strategy Co-Ordinator that the youth pod remain sited at Eden Lane until February 2007.

RESOLVED that approval be given for the youth pod to be sited at Eden Lane until February 2007.

115. LEADER'S VERBAL REPORT

The Leader raised several items within his report.

He asked again for Member's support with spending time on the Town Council's stand over the Show weekend.

He mentioned the trip to Nordenham for the 25th Anniversary Celebrations which went very well with the exchange of oxen.

He reported on the Annual Parks Inspection. There were several items of a serious concern, in particular vandalism in Woodhouse

Park which he asked to be addressed immediately with both the press and the Police. The issues relating to the Cemetery were to be raised at the next Parks & Cemetery Committee.

RESOLVED that the items raised be noted and the Town Clerk arrange for a press release to be issued, in consultation with the Leader regarding Woodhouse Park and an urgent meeting be arranged with the Police to discuss the issue.