

THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF PETERLEE  
TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL,  
PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 18<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2007

PRESENT: COUN T JONES (CHAIR)

Mesdames: L Wood, J Scott &  
J I Measor

Messrs: J Hardy, D Milsom, C J Metcalfe, R  
Huitson, R Kyle, E W Hall, D Langan, W M  
Jeffrey, J Alvey, R Curtis and R Jones

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

33. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors H  
Bennett MBE, C Robbins, M A Cartwright, C Austin and M Milsom.

34. POLICE UPDATE

The Police representative gave an update on the activity in the Town.  
He advised that there had been an education session by the Police with  
taxi drivers. Members gave details of “U” turns being carried out  
when taxis were dropping off at the Central Club and outside of the  
Peterlee Lodge. The Police advised that Helford Road was the subject  
of an operational order and a series of test purchases had been carried  
out around the Town. Details were given on the Alcohol Control  
Orders which covered every area where there were shops and applied

to over 18's. The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that the Town Council had agreed to support this initiative. The parking of cars on Fulwell Road/Chapel Hill Road causing an obstruction had been reported to the Street Wardens but a Local Member asked if the Police could look into this also. The Police advised that fixed penalty notices had been issued to motorists parking on the roadside in the vicinity of the Methodist Church the Leader asked that this type of enforcement continue as the problem was not going away.

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

35. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2007, copies of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

36. CLOSING OF ACCOUNTS 2006/2007

The Chairman welcomed Ms Cathie Eddowes, from the Audit Commission to the meeting. Ms Eddowes was in attendance at the meeting for the Closing of the Accounts and also as part of the Audit Commission's commitment to corporate governance.

The Chairman thanked Ms Eddowes for her interest and attendance at the meeting.

**RESOLVED that the accounts for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007, be accepted.**

37. PETERLEE BUS STATION

The Chairman welcomed Mr Richard Startup from Durham County Integrated Transport Unit to the meeting.

Mr Startup explained that the land on which the bus station stands is privately owned by Kenmore. There was no individual in charge of the day to day operation and the responsibility for cleaning lay with Castle Dene Shopping Centre.

He gave details on improvements to the service which included a real time information system for the arrival of buses and also a feasibility study carried out on vandalism issues within the bus station which had recommended changes to doors and access at night as well as increasing the cctv coverage in the station.

With reference to other bus companies using the bus station Mr Startup confirmed that all operators were subject to departure charges, these charges were levied against Go NE, Arriva, Classic Coaches David Urquhart amongst others and that if other companies wished to use the station they could do so, but at a cost.

The Leader felt that the bus station had been built to take all buses off the highway yet still buses/coaches were parking next to the Peterlee Lodge. It was suggested that a “yellow box” should be put in place on the junction of the bus station and the Peterlee Lodge. In answer to the problem of taxi operators picking up and dropping off Mr Startup confirmed that the coaches usually operated from the bottom bus stop which was only 20 yards or so from the taxi rank. A Member asked if there were any plans for the unused former ticket office; none were given. It was reported that on many occasions windows were broken and boarded up. This would be looked into. Mr Startup intended visiting the bus station directly after the meeting to look at some of the issues raised at the meeting.

The Chairman thanked Mr Startup for his attendance.

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

38. THE REPORT OF THE HELFORD ROAD WORKING PARTY OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member was agreed.
  
39. THE REPORT OF THE SHOW MEETING OF THE 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2007 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

40. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

41. THE REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

42. THE REPORT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

43. THE REPORT OF THE CLERK'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 11<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 5 – VIP -Civic Transport Contract, it was confirmed that the Audit Commission had confirmed that it would be in order to extend the civic taxi contract for a further twelve months on the terms as previously agreed.

**RESOLVED that the civic taxi contract with VIP be extended a further twelve months.**

44. THE REPORT OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF THE 11<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

45. THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL PARKS & CEMETERY MEETING OF THE 12<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007 would be circulated at the next meeting of the Parks & Cemetery Committee.

46. STOCKTAKE SUMMARY SHEET, SHOTTON HALL  
BANQUETING SUITES – 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2007

Consideration was given to the Stocktaker's Report for the period up to and including 31<sup>st</sup> May 2007. It was asked that a thank you letter be sent to the Facilities Team.

**RESOLVED that the Stocktaker's Report be received.**

47. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Details of the planning applications relating to Peterlee were circulated as follows:-

Proposal Rear Extension  
At 7 Elsdon Close  
For Mr & Mrs G Sinclair

Proposal Construction of Beer Garden and Roof Terrace  
At Peterlee Catholic Club  
For Peterlee Catholic Club Ltd

Proposal Front Conservatory  
At 24 Adrian Place  
For Mr Vincent

**RESOLVED that no objections be submitted on these applications.**

48. BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2007/08

Members were circulated with a draft copy of the Best Value Performance Plan for 2007/2008.

**RESOLVED that the draft copy of the Town Council's Best Value**

**Performance Plan for 2007/2008 be agreed and arrangements be made for this to be printed by the District of Easington and circulated before 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2007.**

49. CHILD PROTECTION

(i) Policy Statement

(ii) Training – 10<sup>th</sup> July 2007 - PCT, Fern Court

**RESOLVED that the Child Protection Policy Statement be adopted by the Town Council.**

**FURTHER RESOLVED that one place be reserved at the Child Protection Training Session to be held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2007 and either the Town Clerk or his Deputy be authorized to attend.**

50. PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE UNITARY STRUCTURES: MEANS OF PRIORITISING PROPOSALS

Consideration was given to consultation information received from the Department for Communities and Local Government in the above regard. The Leader commented that the biggest fear was where the Town Council would sit within the set up and the worry of double billing.

**RESOLVED that further information, be awaited.**

51. POST OFFICE CLOSURES

Information had been received via the County Durham Association of Local Councils regarding the announcement of the closure of 2,500 Post Offices in the next two years throughout the Country. A list of the closures would be made public shortly and the Deputy Town Clerk asked for authority to act as appropriate in opposing any closures listed for the Town on the Town Council's behalf. A Local Member advised that the Post Office in Yoden Road had already been closed.

**RESOLVED that authority be given to respond objecting to any closures within the Town.**

52. THE NEW SMOKE FREE LAW COMING INTO EFFECT 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2007

Members were circulated with correspondence received from the District of Easington regarding the new Smokefree Law coming into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007 and how it would affect the Town Council's business. A Meeting of the Town Council's Working Party had been called for Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2007 to make final recommendations in this regard.

**RESOLVED that progress be awaited.**

53. ACTION PACKED FUTURES FESTIVAL 2007 – HELFORD ROAD PLAYING FIELDS, 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2007

Members were circulated with details of this event.

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

54. CiLCA MENTORING SESSIONS – REQUEST FOR THE DEPUTY TOWN CLERK TO ATTEND, EIGHT SESSIONS ON AN EVENING RUN AT MONTHLY INTERVALS AT A COST OF £100

The Deputy Town Clerk requested permission to attend the CiLCA Mentoring Sessions to be held over a period of eight months at County Hall, Durham at a total cost of £100.00.

**RESOLVED that approval be given for the Deputy Town Clerk to attend these sessions.**

55. LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader gave his report which included the following items:-

- Local government re-organization – which was a big issue for the Town Council and had huge both service and cost implications.
- The Walking Parade for the Show – media attention
- Floral Displays – to make sure that the displays were at the high standard that previous displays had been which would need lots of effort from the Parks Staff.

56. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND THE 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 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION), ACT 1985.

57. PETERLEE FOOTBALL CLUB

**RESOLVED that authority be given to the Town Clerk to issue the appropriate notice to quit and take over occupation of Peterlee Football Club, Eden Lane. FURTHER RESOLVED that the details of the take over, including take over of the staff be discussed and reported on accordingly.**

58. CHOCOLATE FOUNTAINS

The Deputy Town Clerk reported receipt of two letters regarding the engagement of chocolate fountains by customers of Shotton Hall Banqueting Suites.



**RESOLVED that the Town Clerk seek legal advice regarding the terms of the catering contract for Shotton Hall and upon receipt further consideration be given to this correspondence.**