

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2008

PRESENT: COUN T JONES (CHAIR)

Mesdame: L Wood

Messrs: R Kyle, B Scott, J Alvey, H Bennett MBE, W M Jeffrey, J Hardy, D Langan, G Cowie, C J Metcalfe, C Robbins, R Huitson. D Milsom & E W Hall

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

PRIOR TO THE MEETING, A 15 MINUTE “OPEN SESSION” WAS HELD TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUT QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL.

247. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were given on behalf of Councillors M A Cartwright, J Scott, R Jones, C Austin, J I Measor and M Milsom.

248. POLICE UPDATE

The Chairman welcomed Sgt Hawkes to the meeting who gave Members a positive update on crime figures in the Town since the last meeting and of the action taken.

The Leader of the Council brought up the following items for attention:-

- (i) illegal use of motor buggies by parents
- (ii) parking of heavy goods vehicles on housing estates – to identify appropriate action
- (iii) unloading/loading of vehicles at Reg Vardy
- (iv) control of daily deliveries at Asda
- (v) cycles in the Town Centre

A Local Member also raised the issue of the parking of a wagon at the entrance to the Lowhills Road Leisure Gardens.

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

- 249. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed, subject to Councillor R Jones' apologies for absence being recorded.
- 250. THE REPORT OF THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2008 copy of which had been circulated to each Member was agreed.
- 251. THE REPORT OF THE JOINT HEALTH & SAFETY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE 28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2008 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.
- 252. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2008 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.  
Matters Arising  
Minute No 144 – Community Engagement Advisory Group  
**RESOLVED that any Member wishing to be involved contact the Town Clerk.**
- 253. THE REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2008 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

254. THE REPORT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2008 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed, subject to Councillor J Alvey and R Jones as being shown as in attendance rather than as submitting their apologies.

PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM COUNCILLOR C J ROBBINS DECLARED AN INTERESTED AND TOOK NO PART IN THE DISCUSSION WHICH ENSUED.

255. THE REPORT OF THE CLERK'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2008 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 64(i) Request for Concessionary Use-Schools for Gambia – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2008

**RESOLVED that free use of the Banqueting Suites be granted for this event.**

256. THE REPORT OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF THE 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2008 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

257. STOCKTAKE SUMMARY SHEET, SHOTTON HALL BANQUETING SUITES & PETERLEE FOOTBALL CLUB – PERIOD UP TO 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2008

Consideration was given to the Stocktaker's Reports for the period up to 7<sup>th</sup> February 2008. At the last meeting Members asked if an explanation could be provided on the differences in the figure given for line cleaning at both sites and the report of the Facilities Manager in this regard was circulated to each Member.

**RESOLVED that the information be accepted.**

258. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Details of planning applications received were circulated to Members for their consideration.

**RESOLVED that no comments or objections be made to the applications received.**

259. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION MODEL PUBLICATIONS SCHEME

Members were circulated with a copy of information relating to the extension of this scheme.

**RESOLVED that no comment be offered by the Town Council.**

260. UNITARY AUTHORITY - POSSIBLE DEVOLVED SERVICES

Members were circulated with information outlining progress with this matter. It was highlighted that the Leader and Town Clerk had also been invited to attend a further update meeting on Local Government Review.

**RESOLVED that further progress be awaited.**

261. LETTER OF THANKS & APPRECIATION – DEFRA

Members were circulated with a letter of thanks from Kathleen Kelliher of DEFRA following their visit to Peterlee. The representatives from the Rural Policy Unit remarked especially on the tremendous efforts that the Town Council and its community had made in developing their Parks, particularly the effort with sports facilities and amenities for young people.

**RESOLVED that the letter be received.**

262. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS & 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 & THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985.

263. HELDFORD ROAD REBUILD – PUBLIC WORKS LOANS BOARD LOAN

Members gave consideration to the report prepared by the Town Clerk on this matter.

**RESOLVED that a Special Meeting of the Town Council be held to discuss the details in more depth.**

264. LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader raised the following issues:-

- possible change in seating arrangements
- The Leader confirmed that he had spoken to Seaham Town Council on the issue of Member's Allowances and would advise Members on the outcome of discussions following the meeting at the District Council on the 29<sup>th</sup> February 2008. He gave the points that he felt should be taken into consideration including the amount of hours spent in meetings; increase in duties over recent years; achieving Quality Status;
- Unitary Authority proposals – the Leader asked all Members to make both him and the Clerk aware of any meetings on Local Government Restructuring, which as key stakeholders, we should be invited along to;
- Show Meeting – all Members were encouraged to attend.