

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 26TH JANUARY 2009

PRESENT: COUN T JONES (CHAIR)

Mesdames: J I Measor, S McDonnell,
M Milsom & J Black

Messrs: R Kyle, J Alvey, H Bennett MBE, J Hardy,
W M Jeffrey, R Curtis, R W Jones, G Cowie, D Milsom,
& C Austin

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. THERE WERE NO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT.

190. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors M A Cartwright, R Kyle, C Robbins & L Wood.

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

Matters Arising

Minute Number 174 – Police Update – Invalid Carriages

Members were circulated with information received from the Police giving the legal position with these carriages.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

192. POLICE -UPDATE

The Police representative gave Members crime statistics and an update on operations carried out since the last meeting of this Committee.

The Leader expressed his grave concerns at the public nuisance and disturbance caused to neighbours of the new College following a recent music night. He was concerned that residents quality of life was being disturbed. A Local Member had spoken to the College and they had postponed future events. The Police commented on the event.

It was agreed that the Town Council send a strong letter of concern to the College.

Other issues raised by the Leader were:-

- Parking on a “T- Junction” at EdenHill Road;
- “U” turns being carried out by taxi drivers;
- Parking on footpaths;
- Asda Lorries parking on the main roundabout.

RESOLVED that these matters be investigated further by the Police and as suggested a letter be sent to the College expressing the Town Council’s concerns at the problems experienced by those living near to the College following their recent music night.

193. THE REPORT OF THE MAYOR’S COMMITTEE OF THE 15TH DECEMBER 2008 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

194. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 12TH JANUARY 2009 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

Matters Arising

- (i) Minute Number 238 – County Durham Association of Local Councils Replacement of District Committees by AAP Local Council Committees – Consultation

RESOLVED that the Town Council respond to this consultation by saying how they had not agreed nor supported to the structure of the AAPs, and therefore to mirror this arrangement for the County Durham Association was also not supported.

- (ii) Minute Number 241 - Durham County Council – Request for Precept Information 2009/2010 and,
 (iii) Minute Number 242 – Medium Term Financial Plan 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12

Following the presentation of the draft estimates to the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting, the Town Clerk had prepared a revision of these estimates on receipt of the notification of the special double taxation grant from the County Council in the sum of £27,984.00.

In view of the current economic climate, the Clerk was requested to reduce the budget requirement, and the following reductions were made to the initial budget report:-

<u>Code</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Revised Budget</u>	<u>Saving</u>
9190	Admin & O’heads	Shotton Hall repairs & dec	3,000	4,400
9420	Admin	Small tools	6,250	5,000
3040	Shotton Hall Banqueting Suites	repairs & dec	4,200	1,100
3130	Shotton Hall	Furniture	3,000	3,000
4340	Public Buildings	Woodhouse Park repairs & maint	2,120	2,000

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9090	Information Centre	repairs & maint	500	4,500
7040	Cemetery & Burials	repairs & maint	3,000	3,000
<u>Capital</u>				
95100	Footpath Works		0.00	9,000
96000	Capital – New vehicles		0.00	28,000

Total saving				60,000

The above savings would bring the estimated gross requirement to £2,745,039, with projected income of £1,082,335 leaving a net requirement of £1,662,704.

This could be achieved by a 8% increase in the precept, raising the precept figure to £1,325,498.00, with the balance of £337,206 being met from reserves.

The Town Clerk did however draw to Member's attention that to keep the increase to 8% in 2009/10 would probably mean a substantially higher increase in 2010/11, and that he did have concerns at the level of balances the Council would be working with. He suggested if Members were minded to proceed as set out above, then the Council would need to consider increasing the precept in 2011/12 to bring reserves to a more appropriate figure.

RESOLVED that the Town Council set it's precept for 2009/2010 at £1,325,498.00, with the balance of £337,206 being met from reserves.

**FURTHER RESOLVED that a small working group be established to consider future budgets prior to submission to Committee, comprising of:-
The Leader, Deputy Leader together with two other Members.**

195. THE REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE 12TH JANUARY 2009 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 32 - Durham County Council – Town & Country Planning General Regulations 1992

Reference no 928/112(7)

Proposed new 3 and part 4 storey secondary school, sports facility and associated external works with demolition of existing school, Shotton Hall, Waveney Road, Passfield Way, Peterlee for Carillion Construction

Reference no 928/112(6)

Proposed new single storey primary school with associated external works and demolition of existing school, Shotton Hall Primary School, Waveney Road, Peterlee for Carillion Construction

RESOLVED that no comments be made on these application details.

196. THE REPORT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 12TH JANUARY 2009 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

197. THE REPORT OF THE CLERK'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE 19TH JANUARY 2009 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

198. THE REPORT OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF THE 19TH JANUARY 2009 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

199. STOCKTAKE SUMMARY SHEET, SHOTTON HALL BANQUETING SUITES & PETERLEE FOOTBALL CLUB – PERIOD UP TO 5TH JANUARY 2009

Consideration was given to the Stocktaker's Reports for the period up to 5th January 2009. Details on the line cleaning and wastage were given.

RESOLVED that the reports provided by the Stocktaker, be received and for future reports the number of weeks included for line cleaning and the details of the wastage be included.

200. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Details of planning applications received from the District of Easington were given to Members.

RESOLVED that no comments be made on the applications details.

201. NEW YEAR'S EVE TICKETS 2009 – RESERVED TICKETS TO BE COLLECTED AND PAID FOR BY THE END OF JANUARY 2009

Members were requested to notify the Office of their requirements in relation to New Year's Eve Tickets 2009.

RESOLVED that Members advise the Office by no later than Friday 30th January 2009 if they wished to take up tickets for this event.

202. DURHAM ASSOCIATION NEWS – POWER OF WELL BEING

Members were circulated with a copy of an extract of an article relating to the Power of Well Being taken from the Durham Association News. Members noted the requirements under this Order, one of which was for 80% of councillors to be trained in the use of the well-being power.

RESOLVED that the Town Council agree that it wished to obtain

the requirements to use the Power of Well Being.

203. LETTER FROM MR J CUMMINGS MP RE REQUEST FOR SKATEPARK PROVISION

Members were circulated with a copy of a letter from Cranx Crew which had been forwarded by Mr Cummings MP. The Cranx Crew had an aim to build a skate park within the Peterlee Area.

As agreed at the last meeting of the Parks & Cemetery Committee the Town Council was to accept the gift of the mobile skate park, this would be made available for use until finances were available for anything more permanent.

RESOLVED that a suitable reply be made.

204. 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.

205. MR R GRAVESON (E2E) TRAINEE

RESOLVED that approval be given for Mr Graveson to undertake his NVQ Level 2 as an E2E trainee and with the support of the Town Council for a period of twelve months.

206. LEASE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS MAST, EDEN LANE

The Town Clerk advised that at the Finance & General Purposes Committee held in April 2008 it was recommended and agreed to

enter into a lease at £5,250 plus 25% of the site sharers income. On the 21st April 2008 at the Council Meeting, the Town Council were asked if they were interested in buying out the clawback. Consideration of this decision was deferred until a cost was known. This was now given to Members.

RESOLVED that the offer to buy out the claw back not be taken up and authority be given for the Town Clerk to proceed with a lease on the terms as recommended by Durham County Council's Valuation Section.

206. LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader gave his report in particular noting items within the budget and the noise, nuisance and car parking problems being experienced following a recent music event at the new College site. Within the budget he high lighted the costs of the new build at Helford Road and the obvious effect on the estimates of requirements for the next financial year and on the Town Council's reserves.

The Leader also gave details of a Sportsman's Dinner to be held at Shotton Hall Banqueting Suites to raise funds for Peterlee Newtown FC.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.