

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Shildon Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Hall Square, Shildon, Co Durham on Monday 22nd May 2006.

Present: Councillors Mrs J Bird, S C Bird, S J Brown, R J Cutting,
Mrs L Goldie, D M Hancock, M S Hardy, G Howe, P Quinn,
G Huntington, J M Smith, V Chapman (from item 7)
B Stoker, M Stott, G Swinbank and J Thompson

TC 1/06 Election of Town Mayor

Councillor J M Smith proposed and Councillor M Stott seconded a nomination for Councillor G Swinbank to be elected Town Mayor for the ensuing year. There being no further nominations Councillor G Swinbank was duly elected Town Mayor for 2006/07.

TC 2/06 Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Councillor G Swinbank made and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of the Office of Town Mayor. Councillor Swinbank expressed his appreciation and honour on being elected Town Mayor and promised he would do all in his power to promote the town. He looked forward to the future and his desire for all of the elected Members to work together to improve the quality of life for the residents of the town.

TC 3/06 Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Town Mayor

Councillor Smith acknowledged the positive impact made by Councillor Bird during his term of office and added that this view was shared by other Chairmen throughout the Borough. He thanked and congratulated Councillor Bird on his term of office which he believed had been a resounding success.

Councillor Bird expressed his thanks to his fellow Councillors for giving him the opportunity to serve as Town Mayor and during his term of office he had been proud to represent both the residents and the town of Shildon.

Whilst he acknowledged that his year of office had been something of a rollercoaster experience he believed there had been many highlights including the reintroduction of a Charity Ball, a successful Easter weekend Military Exhibition at Locomotion, the launch of the Parish Plan exercise and the appointment of a Young Mayor for the Day.

Councillor Huntington welcomed Councillor Swinbank as the new Town Mayor and wished him every success and support and thanked Councillor Bird for all of his efforts and hard work during his term of office.

TC 4/06 Election of the Deputy Town Mayor

Councillor Smith proposed and Councillor L Goldie seconded a nomination for Councillor M Stott to be elected Deputy Town Mayor for 2006/07. There being no further nominations Councillor M Stott was duly elected Deputy Town Mayor for 2006/07.

TC 5/06 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

TC 6/06 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

TC 7/06 Police Report

Councillor G Swinbank welcomed PC Mugall to the meeting. PC Mugall advised that whilst the full statistics were not available he was able to advise the Council that 68 incidents of rowdy/nuisance behaviour had been reported of which 32 were youth related.

There had been nine burglaries but only two were dwelling related together with 14 incidents of vehicle crime. There had again been no issues relating to licensing activities.

PC Mugall advised that Operation Parkdale was ongoing which was being driven by identified hot spots and provided for engagement with the neighbourhood wardens and home visits. He requested Members to provide details of other hot spots as appropriate.

Councillor Mrs J Bird raised the issue of youths riding pedal cycles on footpaths.

TC 8/06 Review of Democratic Arrangements

a) Appointment of a Leader of the Council

Members considered the appointment of a Leader of the Council, and following debate on this matter it was **resolved** that a Leader of the Council be appointed.

Councillor G Huntington requested that the Members voting against the appointment of a Leader of the Council be duly recorded as follows:-

Councillor G Huntington
Councillor G R Howe
Councillor D Hancock
Councillor J Thompson
Councillor V Chapman
Councillor P Quinn

Councillor J M Smith was proposed and seconded to be elected Leader of the Council for 2006/07 and in the absence of any further nominations Councillor J M Smith was duly elected Leader of the Council for 2006/07.

Councillor Mrs L Goldie was duly proposed and seconded to be the Deputy Leader of the Council and in the absence of any further nominations Councillor Mrs L Goldie was duly appointed Deputy Leader of the Council.

b) Review of the Committee Structure

Resolved that the following full Committees be constituted for 2006/07:-

a) Service and Amenities Committee

- b) Resources Committee

It was further **resolved** that the following working parties be established for 2006/07.

- a) Civic Hall Management
- b) Allotments
- c) Christmas Illuminations

and each of the working parties would report initially to the Service and Amenities Committee.

c) Timing of Council and Committee meetings

Resolved that Council and Committee meetings for 2006/07 be held as follows:-

- a) Service and Amenities Committee - second Monday of each month
- b) Town Council - fourth Monday of each month
- c) Recess to be held in August
- d) the day and time of meetings be kept under review.

TC 9/06 Membership of full Committees

It was **resolved** that the membership of the Committees be as follows:-

- a) Service and Amenities Committee - all Members
- b) Resources Committee - all Members

TC 10/06 Complaints Committee

It was **resolved** that the membership of the Complaints Committee be the Town Mayor and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of full Committees.

TC 11/06 Sub-Committees

It was **resolved** that the membership of the Sub-Committees be as follows:-

- a) Staffing Sub-Committee - Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor and Chairman and Vice-Chairman of full committees.
- b) Planning Sub-Committee - Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Service and Amenity Committee plus one Member from each ward being Councillor J Thompson (Byerley), Councillor S Bird (Thickley) Councillor M Hardy (Sunnydale).

TC 12/06 Working Parties

It was resolved that the standing membership of working parties be the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the relevant full Committee plus three Independent members, one Liberal Democrat member and one Labour member.

It was further **resolved** that the membership of the working parties for 2006/07 be as follows:-

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|-------------------------|---|
| Civic Hall Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chairman of Service & Amenities Committee - Vice Chairman of Service & Amenities Committee - Councillor M Stott - Councillor Mrs J Bird - Councillor Mrs L Goldie - Liberal Democrat member - vacant - Labour member - vacant |
| Allotments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chairman of Service & Amenities Committee - Vice-Chairman of Service & Amenities Committee - Councillor S Brown - Councillor B Stoker - Councillor M Hardy - Liberal Democrat member - vacant - Labour member - vacant |
| Christmas Illuminations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chairman of Service & Amenities Committee - Vice-Chairman of Services & Amenities Committee - Councillor Mrs J Bird - Councillor M Stott - Councillor J Smith - Liberal Democrat member - vacant - Labour member - vacant |

TC 13/06 Representatives on Outside Bodies

It was **resolved** that the representatives on outside bodies be as follows:-

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| a) | Parish Plan Steering Group | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Councillor J M Smith - Councillor M Stott |
| b) | County Durham Association of Local Councils | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Councillor J M Smith - Councillor Mrs L Goldie |
| c) | Borough/Parish Liaison Committee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Councillor J M Smith - Councillor G Swinbank |
| d) | Sedgefield & District Local Councils Committee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Councillor J M Smith - Councillor Mrs Goldie |
| e) | Sedgefield Borough Area 4 Forum | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Councillor M Stott - Councillor Mrs J Bird - Councillor Mrs L Goldie |
| f) | Shildon Centre Management Committee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Councillor G Howe |
| g) | Shildon Forum of Local Organisations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Councillor S Bird |

- h) Jubilee Fields Community Association - Councillor M Hardy
- i) Shildon Community Safety Group - Councillor S Brown
- Vacant
- j) Museum Forum - Councillor S Bird
- k) Shildon Community Rail Trail - Councillor D Hancock
- l) Sedgefield & District Advice & Information Service - Councillor Mrs Goldie

TC 14/06 Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 24th April 2006 be approved and adopted.

TC 15/06 Committees

Resolved that the minutes of the Committees be approved as follows:-

- a) Civic Hall Management 24th April 2006
- b) General Purposes 24th April 2006
- c) Finance 24th April 2006

TC 16/06 Report from representatives on outside bodies

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Shildon Community Safety Group held on 27th March 2006 be received.

TC 17/06 Proposed closure of Hackworth House

Resolved that the Town Council respond to the consultation on the proposed closure of Hackworth House in support of the retention of the residential home.

It was further **resolved** that the Leader of Durham County Council be requested to reconsider the previous decision of Durham County Council to withdraw funding from the Shildon Centre, close the Holly Hill Centre and the closure of Thornhill Gardens Swimming Pool.

The Town Council expressed its gratitude for the efforts of County Councillors V Chapman and D Bowman in support of the retention of Hackworth House.