

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Shildon Town Council held in the Hackworth Park Rest House, Shildon, Co Durham on Monday 21st May 2007.

Present: Councillors D M Hancock, G M R Howe (up to Minute No 17/07), J G Huntington, Ms I Jackson, Mrs L Smith, F Timmiss, V Chapman, A Walker, P Quinn, L Iddon, R Matthews, B H Stoker, G Swinbank, S Bird, J M Smith and M Hardy (up to Minute No, 16/07)

TC 1/07 Election of Town Mayor

Councillor J M Smith proposed and Councillor D Hancock seconded a nomination for Councillor B H Stoker to be elected Town Mayor for the ensuing year. There being no further nominations Councillor B H Stoker was duly elected Town Mayor for 2007/08.

TC 2/07 Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Councillor B H Stoker made and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of the Office of Town Mayor. Councillor Stoker expressed his appreciation and honour on being elected Town Mayor and promised he would do all in his power to promote the town. He also thanked Councillor G Swinbank for his hard work during his year of office.

TC 3/07 Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Town Mayor

Councillor Smith acknowledged the positive impact made by Councillor Swinbank during his term of office. He thanked and congratulated Councillor Swinbank on his term of office which he believed had been a resounding success.

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

Councillor Walker endorsed the comments of Councillor Huntington.

Councillor Swinbank 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.

He would not forget his year of office and had made some great friends and had some surprises including a letter from Harriet Harman MP apologising for not taking the opportunity to talk to him at the Sedgfield Borough Civic Ball!

He added that it had been a busy year especially during the Christmas period and expressed his thanks to the office and Direct Works staff for their support. In particular he reserved special thanks for the support he had received from his wife who had taken to the duties with vigour and had put up with his attempted dancing!

TC 4/07 Election of the Deputy Town Mayor

Councillor Mrs L Smith proposed and Councillor R Matthews seconded a nomination for Councillor Ms A Hammond to be elected Deputy Town Mayor for 2007/08. There

being no further nominations Councillor Ms A Hammond was duly elected Deputy Town Mayor for 2007/08.

TC 5/07 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Ms A Hammond.

TC 6/07 Declarations of Interest

Councillor A Walker declared a personal interest in item 14(k) as a consequence of being Chairman of Shildon Museum Limited.

TC 7/07 Appointment of a Leader of the Council

Councillor L Iddon proposed and Councillor R Matthews seconded a nomination for Councillor J M Smith to be elected Leader of the Council for 2007/08.

Councillor Timmiss proposed and Councillor Chapman seconded a nomination of Councillor A Walker to be elected Leader of the Council for 2007/08.

Both nominations were put to a vote and Councillor J M Smith was duly elected Leader of the Council for 2007/8.

TC 8/07 Appointment of Deputy Leader of the Council

Councillor D M Hancock proposed and Councillor J M Smith seconded a nomination for Councillor J G Huntington to be elected for Deputy Leader of the Council.

Councillor S Bird proposed and Councillor Quinn seconded a nomination for Councillor F Timmiss to be elected Deputy Leader of the Council for 2007/08.

Both nominations were put to a vote and Councillor J G Huntington was duly elected Deputy Leader of the Council for 2007/08.

TC 9/07 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 10/07 Schedule of Meetings

It was **resolved** that the schedule of meetings be approved.

TC 11/07 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 12/07 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 Amenities Committee plus one Member from each ward being Councillor R Matthews (Byerley), Councillor Ms A Hammond (Thickley) and Councillor L Iddon (Sunnydale).

TC 13/07 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. In addition where appropriate non-members of the Town Council would be co-opted on to working parties where their skills and knowledge would be beneficial to the effectiveness of the working parties.

It was further **resolved** that the membership of the working parties for 2007/08 be as follows:-

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|-------------------------|--|
| Civic Hall Management | - Chairman of Service & Amenities Committee
- Vice Chairman of Service & Amenities Committee
- Councillor Ms A Hammond
- Councillor D M Hancock
- Councillor Mrs L Smith
- Liberal Democrat member – Councillor G M R Howe
- Labour member - Councillor F Timmiss
- Co-opted member – W Drennan |
| Allotments | - Chairman of Service & Amenities Committee
- Vice-Chairman of Service & Amenities Committee
- Councillor D M Hancock
- Councillor G Swinbank
- Councillor M Hardy
- Liberal Democrat member – Cllr J G Huntington
- Labour member – Councillor A Walker |
| Christmas Illuminations | - Chairman of Service & Amenities Committee
- Vice-Chairman of Services & Amenities Committee
- Councillor R Matthews
- Councillor L Iddon
- Councillor J M Smith
- Councillor J G Huntington
- Councillor V Chapman
- Co-opted member - Mrs L Goldie |
| Office Relocation | - Chairman of Resources Committee
- Vice-Chairman of Resources Committee
- Councillor Mrs L Smith |

- Councillor Ms A Hammond
- Councillor Ms I Jackson
- Councillor J G Huntington
- Councillor P Quinn

TC 14/07 Representatives on Outside Bodies

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

- | | | | |
|----|--|---|-----------------------|
| a) | Parish Plan Steering Group | - | Councillor J M Smith |
| | | - | Cllr J G Huntington |
| b) | County Durham Association of Local Councils | - | Councillor J M Smith |
| | | - | Cllr Mrs L Smith |
| c) | Borough/Parish Liaison Committee | - | Councillor J M Smith |
| | | - | Cllr G Swinbank |
| d) | Sedgefield & District Local Councils Committee | - | Councillor J M Smith |
| | | - | Cllr Mrs L Smith |
| e) | Sedgefield Borough Area 4 Forum | - | Councillor D Hancock |
| | | - | Cllr J G Huntington |
| | | - | Cllr Ms I Jackson |
| f) | Shildon Centre Management Committee | - | Councillor G Howe |
| g) | Shildon Forum of Local Organisations | - | Councillor S Bird |
| h) | Jubilee Fields Community Association | - | Councillor R Matthews |
| i) | Shildon Community Safety Group | - | Councillor R Matthews |
| | | - | Cllr J G Huntington |
| j) | Museum Forum | - | Councillor S Bird |
| k) | Shildon Museum Limited | - | Councillor D Hancock |
| l) | Sedgefield & District Advice & Information Service | - | Cllr Mrs L Smith |
| m) | Shildon Children & Young Peoples Action Network (SCYPAN) | - | Councillor M Hardy |
| | | - | Councillor R Matthews |

TC 15/07 Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 23rd April 2007 be approved and adopted.

TC 16/07 Police Report

The Town Mayor welcomed PC Simon Cowan to the meeting and reference was made to the following statistics:

Total incidents	478	
Total recorded crime	111	30.6% detection rate
Total violent crime	21	
Robbery	0	
Burglary (dwelling)	7	
Burglary (other)	10	
Criminal damage	34	
Theft of motor vehicle	4	
Theft from motor vehicle	4	
Damage to vehicles	13	
Shoplifting	7	
Total theft	33	

Total rowdy incidents for April totalled 111 of which 68 were youth related.

Total number of domestic incidents were 18 of which 10 involved violence.

PC Cowan advised that the figures represented the highest crime rate in the south of the county. He also provided details of crimes committed over the last weekend which included the theft of a garden figurine from Highland Gardens and a burglary in Dent Street.

A query was raised as to whether or not data could be provided regarding crimes committed by tenants of private sector landlords and it was agreed that this would be investigated.

PC Cowan advised that children playing near to railway lines remained an issue and confirmed that no arrests had been made regarding the arson at the Children's Centre.

PC Cowan finally advised that this would be the last meeting he would attend as he was to leave Shildon to work in Darlington.

In response Councillor J M Smith advised Members that PC Cowan had joined the police force in 1989 and reminded Members that during his service to date PC Cowan had received five commendations.

The Town Mayor presented PC Cowan with a gift from the Town Council in recognition of his efforts and hard work and wished him good luck and every success for the future.

TC 17/07 Shildon Centre

The Town Clerk provided Members with details of the latest situation regarding the Shildon Centre and confirmed that the Management Committee had taken the decision to close the Centre with effect from 31st May 2007.

He also advised that discussions were ongoing between Durham County Council and a Group who wished to retain the Centre as a venue for local community and voluntary groups to meet.

The Town Clerk advised that he had been asked to attend a meeting between Durham County Council and the Group on Wednesday 23rd May 2007 and it was **resolved** that the Town Clerk attend the meeting and report back to Members accordingly.

TC 18/07 Report from representatives on outside bodies

There were no reports from representatives on outside bodies.

TC 19/07 Adoption of Model Code of Conduct for Members of Town and Parish Councils 2007

Resolved that the Model Code of Conduct for Members of Town and Parish Councils 2007 be adopted in its entirety.

TC 20/07 Member Training

The Town Clerk provided details of the following training events available to Members:-

- a) County Durham and Cleveland Training Partnership – How to be a good Councillor.
- b) Sedgefield Borough Council - Standards Issues

It was **resolved** that Members advise the Town Clerk personally if they wish to attend either or both of the training events.

TC 21/07 Local Government Restructure

- a) The Town Clerk advised Members of a request from Sedgefield Borough Council to provide comments on the proposed creation of a single council for County Durham – **resolved** that no specific comments be made on the proposal but the Town Council remain committed to working with all relevant parties to ensure the effective delivery of local government services to the community in the future.
- b) The Town Clerk advised Members of a Question and Answer Session to be held by Durham County Council on 2nd June 2007 to which he and the Leader or Chairman had been invited – **resolved** that, in the absence of the Town Clerk, the Town Council be represented by the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Town Council.