

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Civic Hall Square, Shildon, Co Durham on 24th September 2007

Present: Councillor B H Stoker
Councillors G Swinbank, L Iddon, P Quinn, F Timmiss, V Chapman, A Walker, A Hammond, S Bird, R J Matthews, J M Smith

TC 53/07 Public Question Time

There were no questions from members of the public.

TC 54/07 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G M R Howe, J G Huntington and L Smith.

TC 55/07 Declarations of Interest

Councillor R Matthews declared a personal interest in item 11 – Request for representation on The Pilgrim Club Management Committee and Councillor A Walker declared a personal interest in item 17 – Application for financial support from the Shildon People's Centre.

TC 56/07 Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting

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

TC 57/07 Committees

Resolved that the minutes of the following Committees be approved and adopted:-

- a. Service & Amenities - 10th September 2007
- b. Resources - 10th September 2007

TC 58/07 Police Report

Councillor B H Stoker welcomed Sergeant S Ball, Acting Sergeant S Rogers and the police representatives to the meeting.

Acting Sergeant Rogers presented the following statistics for the months of July and August:-

	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>
Recorded incidents	404	398
Recorded crime	80	114
Violent Crime	15	28
Violence against the person	14	27
Robbery	-	-
Burglary-dwelling	9	11
Burglary-other	5	6
Criminal Damage	26	37
Theft of motor vehicle	3	4
Theft from motor vehicle	2	4
Shoplifting	3	2
Theft-total	17	28
Anti social behaviour	65	70

It was reported that over the last 3 weeks the number of reported incidents had fallen.

Members requested an update following an incident at the rear of Main Street two months ago in which a vehicle was damaged etc.

It was agreed that details of the complaint regarding youths playing football in Church Street in the early hours be forwarded to the police.

Members were advised that Sergeant S Ball had been promoted to Inspector and as a consequence would be leaving Shildon. Members congratulated Sergeant Ball on his promotion and acknowledged the loss of a great servant to Shildon.

TC 59/07 Annual Governance Report

Paul Hepple of the Audit Commission presented the Annual Governance Report.

He advised that the Commission propose to issue an unqualified audit opinion and that the statement on Internal Control had been prepared in accordance with proper practice and was consistent with the findings from the audit.

The conclusion in respect of the use of Resources had identified a need to improve arrangements for the management of significant business risks and for the management of the Council's asset base.

Resolved that the Annual Governance Report be noted.

TC 60/07 Statement of Accounts 2006/07

Resolved that following the completion of the audit the revised Statement of Accounts 2006/07 be approved and authorisation be given to the Town Mayor to sign the Statement.

- TC 61/07 Report from representatives on outside bodies
- a. Minutes of the meeting of the Shildon Community Safety Group held on 18th July 2007 – **resolved** that the minutes be noted.
 - b. Minutes of the meeting of the Shildon Children and Young People's Action Network held on 1st August 2007 – **resolved** that the minutes be noted.
- TC 62/07 Appointment of replacement Member for the Byerley Ward to the Planning Sub-Committee
- Resolved** that Councillor J M Smith be appointed to the Planning Sub-Committee.
- TC 63/07 Request for representation on the Pilgrim Club Management Committee
- Resolved** that the request for officer representation on the Management Committee be noted but no appointment be made.
- TC 64/07 Heritage Line Partnership
- Resolved** that the Partnership be advised that the Town Council does not accept that representation be limited to officers and that a further request be made for Councillor L Iddon to be the Town Council's elected representative.
- TC 65/07 'Passionate about Paths' Consultation Draft – Rights of Way Improvement Plan for County Durham
- Resolved** that Durham County Council be advised of the Town Council's support for the Plan and its commitment to work in partnership with relevant bodies, where appropriate, to deliver the specific actions identified to deliver the vision for the rights of way network.
- TC 66/07 Revised Statement of Licensing Policy
- Resolved** that the revised Statement of Licensing Policy be supported.
- TC 67/07 Appreciations & Congratulations
- Councillor B H Stoker reminded Members of the Charity Night to be held in the Civic Hall on 2nd November and encouraged either attendance at the event or the donation of a tombola prize.
- Resolved** that the details of the engagements attended by the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor be noted.

Resolved that the letter of appreciation from the Northern Region of Jazz Bands be noted.

TC 68/07 Exclusion of Press & Public

That in accordance with the provisions of Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council now excludes the press and public on the grounds of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted since publicity would be prejudicial to the public.

TC 69/07 Application for financial support from the Shildon People's Centre

Following detailed consideration of the application Councillor S Bird proposed, and Councillor Matthews seconded, that the application be deferred to the next meeting of the Town Council and a representative from the Shildon People's Centre be invited to attend to present the case for financial support.

A recorded vote was requested and Members voted as follows:-

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>
Councillor L Iddon	Councillor P Quinn
Councillor A Hammond	Councillor F Timmiss
Councillor S Bird	Councillor V Chapman
Councillor R Matthews	Councillor A Walker
	Councillor J M Smith
	Councillor G Swinbank

The motion was defeated.

Councillor J M Smith proposed, and Councillor F Timmiss seconded, that a grant of £3,300 be made to the Shildon People's Centre for 2007/08 only subject to the following conditions:-

- a. the grant be paid in monthly instalments from October 2007 to March 2008
- b. the Town Council be afforded two elected Member representatives on the Management Committee
- c. regular performance reports including specific details of usage be submitted to the Town Council
- d. if financial assistance is to be requested for 2008/09 an updated business plan be submitted in December 2007 to include, as a minimum, a three-year expenditure and income budget projection

A recorded vote was requested and Members voted as follows:-

For

Councillor G Swinbank
Councillor P Quinn
Councillor F Timmiss
Councillor V Chapman
Councillor A Walker
Councillor A Hammond
Councillor J M Smith

Against

Councillor L Iddon
Councillor S Bird
Councillor R Matthews

The motion was carried and it was **resolved** that:-

- a. a grant of £3,300 be paid to the Shildon People's Centre for 2007/08 only
- b. the grant be paid in monthly instalments from October 2007 to March 2008
- c. the Town Council be afforded two elected Member representatives on the Management Committee
- d. regular performance reports including specific details of usage be submitted to the Town Council
- e. if financial assistance is to be requested for 2008/09 an updated business plan be submitted in December 2007 to include, as a minimum, a three-year expenditure and income budget projection