

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Civic Hall Square, Shildon, Co Durham on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2007

Present: Councillor B H Stoker  
Councillors G Swinbank, L Iddon, D M Hancock, J G Huntington,  
GMR Howe (up to Item No 7), P Quinn, F Timmiss, V Chapman,  
A Walker, A Hammond, R J Matthews and J M Smith

TC 70/07 Public Question Time

There were no questions from members of the public.

TC 71/07 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from councillors S Bird and L Smith.

TC 72/07 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

TC 73/07 Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2007 be approved and adopted.

TC 74/07 Committees

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

- a) Special Service & Amenities - 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007
- b) Service & Amenities - 8<sup>th</sup> October 2007
- c) Resources - 8<sup>th</sup> October 2007

TC 75/07 Police Report

Councillor B H Stoker welcomed Acting Sergeant S Rogers to the meeting who then presented the following statistics for the month of September:-

Recorded Incidents	356	
Recorded crime	69	
Violent Crime	17	
Violence against the person	14	
Robbery	1	(arrest made)
Burglary – dwelling	1	
Burglary – other	4	
Criminal damage	24	

Theft of motor vehicle	4
Theft from motor vehicle	2
Shoplifting	4
Anti-social behaviour	82

Acting Sergeant Rogers highlighted two major thefts of lead from factory premises, and advised that investigations were ongoing.

On the issue of under-age drinkers accumulating in the Dean Street/Dean Gardens area, Acting Sergeant Rogers made Members aware of the action being taken by the Police and in particular the continued monitoring of one retail outlet for the sale of alcohol to under-age drinkers. He also advised that CCTV tapes from retail outlets could be accessed and viewed by the Police.

Finally Acting Sergeant Rogers advised that Sergeant Milne would be commencing his duties as the full time replacement for former Sergeant Ball on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2007.

TC 76/07      Presentation by S Ragg, Executive Officer, County Durham Association of Local Councils

Steve Ragg initially provided Members with an overview of the County Durham Association and advised that of the 107 town and parish councils in County Durham 90% were members of the Association. The aim of the Association was to have all of County Durham parished and all parish and town councils to be members of the Association.

He explained the membership of the Executive Committee which was drawn from elected members throughout the County area. In addition members of the Executive were representatives on regional and national bodies including the National Association of Local Councils.

The County Association provides a support service for town and parish councils including a regular e-mail service and newsletters. The association also provides via the Cleveland and Durham Training Partnership a full training service for town and parish councils. Current training available includes Training for New Councillors, Chairmanship, etc. and early in 2008 training will be provided in Community Engagement and use of the Planning Portal. The Partnership also provides a mentoring service for clerks and elected members who are seeking to obtain the CILCA qualification.

Steve also advised that membership of the National Association of Local Councils was dependent upon membership of the respective County Association. The National Association provides advice and guidance including a free legal advice service and is, of course, a national campaigning body on behalf of the sector.

Finally Steve clarified the role of the Association with regard to the impending restructure of Local Government in County Durham and further advised that consideration was being given to re-forming the Larger Local Council's Forum.

Councillor B H Stoker thanked Steve Ragg for his presentation and Members agreed that membership of the Association at both county and National level was important at the current time to ensure that the role of the sector was properly presented during the consideration of the future delivery of local government services.

Councillor G M R Howe left the meeting.

TC 77/07 Report from representatives on outside bodies

- a) Minutes of the meeting of the Shildon Children and Young Peoples Action Network held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2007 – **resolved** that the minutes be noted.
- b) Minutes of the meeting of the Shildon Community Safety Group held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2007 – **resolved** that the minutes be noted.

TC 78/07 Queen's Garden Party 2008

**Resolved** that the Town Mayor, Councillor B H Stoker, be nominated for attendance at the Queen's Garden Party.

TC 79/07 Shildon People's Centre - Nomination of Representatives

**Resolved :-**

- a) The Town Council be represented on the Management Committee by the Town Mayor and Leader of the Council and
- b) approval be given to the Shildon People's Centre to use the Town Council logo in the 'sponsors' section of their website.

TC 80/07 Proposed appointment of External Auditor

**Resolved** that the Town Council supports the proposed appointment of S Nicklin as the Town Council's auditor for an initial period of two years with effect from the audit of the accounts for 2008/09.

TC 81/07 Proposal to remove the requirement for the Designated Premises Supervisor for Community Premises

**Resolved** that the Town Council supports the proposed relaxation of the restriction on premises licences for the supply of alcohol for community premises.

TC 82/07 Appreciation and Congratulations

- a) **Resolved** that the details of the engagements attended by the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor be noted.
- b) **Resolved** that the letter of appreciation from Bishop FM be noted and in the future Bishop FM be used to publicise the work and achievements of the Town Council.
- c) **Resolved** that details of the award of Quality Town Council status to the Town Council be forwarded for inclusion in the next issue of INFORM.