

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Civic Hall Square, Shildon, Co Durham on 26th November 2007

Present: Councillor B H Stoker
Councillors G Swinbank, I Jackson, A Walker, J M Smith,
GMR Howe, V Chapman, A Hammond and L Iddon

TC 83/07 Public Question Time

There were no questions from members of the public.

TC 84/07 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Bird, L Smith, F Timmiss and JG Huntington.

TC 85/07 Application for Approval of Continued Absence

Resolved that the application from Councillor Mrs L Smith for authorisation of her continued absence beyond the period of six consecutive months on the grounds on ill-health be approved.

TC 86/07 Declarations of Interest

Councillor V Chapman declared a prejudicial interest in item 10 – Consultation on Durham County Council's Budget 2008/09.

TC 87/07 Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 22nd October 2007 be approved and adopted.

TC 88/07 Committees

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

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| a) | Service & Amenities | - | 12 th November 2007 |
| c) | Resources | - | 12 th November 2007 |

TC 89/07 Police Report

Due to absence of both police representation and statistics for the month of October this item was deferred to the next meeting of the Town Council.

TC 90/07 Mustard Seed Project

A full copy of the presentation made by Reverend R Kalus and Helen Cole, Project Co-ordinator, is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

Resolved that the Mustard Seed Project and the request for financial support be further considered at the next meeting of the Resources Committee.

TC 91/07 Report from representatives on outside bodies

- a) Minutes of the meeting of the Shildon Community Safety Group held on 17th October 2007 - **resolved** that the minutes be noted
- b) Minutes of the meeting of the Shildon Children and Young Peoples Action Network held on 16th October 2007 **resolved** that the minutes be noted.

TC 92/07 Representation on Outside Bodies

- a) Sedgefield and District Citizens Advice Bureau

Resolved that the Town Clerk write to all Members who were absent from the meeting to determine whether or not any Member wishes to be nominated as the Town Council's representative for the Bureau.

- b) Shildon Children and Young Peoples Action Network

Resolved that Councillor Ms I Jackson be nominated as the replacement representative with Councillor G Swinbank nominated as the replacement substitute representative.

TC 93/07 Consultation on Durham County Council's Budget 2008/09

The Town Clerk presented details of the Consultation Paper issued by Durham County Council.

In particular the Town Clerk highlighted proposals for expenditure which had been classified by the County Council as 'undermining performance' and those which may conflict with identified priority areas.

The Town Clerk also advised Members that as the County Council traditionally underspent the approved budget there was the opportunity to provide for the retention in the budget for 2008/09 of the proposed reduction classified as 'undermining performance' in the sum of £1.046m and to provide for the funding of these items by a contribution from reserves on the basis that a continuation of the traditional underspend would obviate the need for the withdrawal from reserves.

Following a detailed and wide-ranging debate it was **resolved** that:-

- a) The Town Council welcome the opportunity to comment on Durham County Council's budget proposals for 2008/09.

- b) Durham County Council be requested to avoid expenditure reductions which would have a negative impact on public safety and the environment, in particular reductions in the number of pre-salting routes, reductions in highway verge grass cutting etc.
- c) Durham County Council be requested to retain all proposed expenditure reductions classified as 'undermining performance' in the sum of £1.046m and to provide for the funding of these items by a contribution from reserves.
- d) Durham County Council be requested to consider enhancements to the recycling service to reduce the additional cost of landfill tax of £1m.

TC 94/07 Age Concern – Intergenerational Heritage Project

Resolved that:

- a) Participants in the project be allowed to contribute local history material for the Town Council's website and by doing so help to promote the project.
- b) A grant of £50 be paid to support the community activity aspect of the project.

TC 95/07 Special Meetings

Resolved that the following Special Meetings be held to consider the 2008/09 Precept:

- a) Special Resources Committee - 29th January 2008
- b) Special Town Council - 4th February 2008

TC 96/07 Appreciations 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 thanks from the Mustard Seed Project be noted.