

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Civic Hall Square, Shildon, Co Durham on 25th February 2008

Present: Councillor B H Stoker
Councillors G Swinbank, L Iddon, D M Hancock, S Bird
GMR Howe (up to Item 13) P Quinn, F Timmiss, V Chapman,
A Walker (up to Item 19), A Hammond and J M Smith (up to Item 19)

TC 129/07 Public Question Time

There were no questions from members of the public.

TC 130/07 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors I Jackson, J G Huntington, R J Matthews and L Smith.

TC 131/07 Declarations of Interest

Councillors A Walker and J M Smith declared a prejudicial interest in Item 20 – presentation by representatives of the Shildon People’s Centre and Councillor B Stoker and V Chapman declared a personal interest in the same item.

TC 132/07 Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28th January 2008 be approved and adopted.

TC 133/07 Minutes of Special Council Meeting

Resolved that the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 4th February 2008 be approved and adopted.

TC 134/07 Committees

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

- a) Service & Amenities - 11th February 2008
- b) Resources - 11th February 2008

TC 135/07 Police Report

The Town Mayor welcomed PC Steve Brown to the meeting who presented the following statistics for the months of December and January:-

	<u>December</u>	<u>January</u>
Violence related crime	18	13
Sexual offences	1	2
Robbery	0	0
Burglary – dwelling	2	5
Burglary – other	4	7
Criminal damage	28	30
Theft of motor vehicle	3	3
Theft from motor vehicle	8	4
Total theft	22	20
Fraud	0	2
Drug offences	1	0

P C Brown highlighted the fact that the incidence of youths causing annoyance for the period April 07 to January 08 had fallen from 591 for the previous year to 395 – a reduction of 33%. He also indicated that for the first three quarters of the year there had been a significant reduction in the levels of crime as follows :-

Total crime	-	down by 15%
Car crime	-	down by 30%
Burglaries	-	down by 27%
Criminal damage	-	down by 21%
Violent crime	-	down by 6%

Whilst during the same period the detection rate was up by 39%. These figures served to support the decision taken by Inspector Neill to have a Sergeant permanently in Shildon, to commence shift duty in Shildon rather than Great Aycliffe and to supplement the establishment of PCSO's.

Members welcomed the statistics and made reference to the continuing problems of off-road motorbikes and problems with the parking of vehicles at the junction of Hilsdon Drive and Spout Lane.

TC 136/07 Report from representatives on outside bodies

Resolved that the notes of the meeting of Shildon Children and Young Peoples Action Network held on 16th January 2008 be received.

TC 137/07 Millennium Green Partnership

Resolved that the Town Council supports the proposed partnership approach to the management and maintenance of the Millennium Green on the terms detailed in the report.

TC 138/7 Local Improvement Programme – Hackworth Park Play Area

Resolved that the funding application be developed in partnership with Groundwork East Durham for the replacement play area etc. and to include the 'adult play area'.

TC 139/7 County Durham Economic Strategy Consultation

Resolved that the Town Council responds to the consultation as follows:-

- a) The proposed vision for the County Durham economy be revised to read:-
'By 2023, we want County Durham to have a modern economy with more jobs, higher income levels, a more skilled workforce and more businesses able to compete successfully in regional and global markets'.
- b) National Railway Museum at Shildon : Locomotion be added to the priority in respect of the tourism economy in the Competitive Place section of the Executive Summary.

TC 140/07 Proposed Post Office Closures

Resolved that the Town Council objects to the proposed closure of the Post Office at 38 Coronation Avenue, Shildon on the grounds of the:-

- i needs of the community as indicated by the Indices of Deprivation 2004
- ii impact of closure on other retail outlets
- iii access difficulties to alternative Post Offices.

TC 141/07 County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service Integrated Risk Management Planning

Resolved that the Fire and Rescue Service be advised of the support of the Town Council for the priorities identified in the Improvement Plan.

TC 142/07 Appointment of External Auditor

Resolved that the appointment of BDO Stoy Hayward as auditor to the Town Council for a five-year period commencing with the 2007/08 accounts, be noted.

TC 143/07 NALC Annual Conference 2008

Resolved that the Town Council be represented at the NALC Annual Conference 2008 by Councillor J M Smith, Councillor S C Bird and the Town Clerk.

TC 144/07 Closure of Electrolux

Resolved that the response from Helen Goodman MP be noted and the possible recoupment of the local government grant be followed up.

TC 145/07 Shildon Yella

Resolved that the progress made in the development of the Youth Forum be noted and the congratulations of the Town Council be conveyed to the Forum for the excellent production of the newsletter. In addition congratulations be also conveyed to the Deputy Town Clerk for the quality of the Town Council Newsletter.

TC 146/07 Appreciations and Congratulations

Resolved that the Mayoral engagements be noted.

TC 147/07 Exclusion of Press and Public

That in accordance with the provision 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 148/07 Presentation by representatives of the Shildon People's Centre

Following the presentation it was **resolved** that:-

- a) A grant of £7,000 be made to the Shildon People's Centre for 2008/09 only.
- b) The grant be paid in equal monthly instalments between April 2008 and March 2009.
- c) Request for further grant support in future years will only be considered following the submission of an updated business plan to include financial projections for a minimum period of three years.