

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Civic Hall Square, Shildon, Co Durham on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2008

Present: Councillor A Hammond,  
Councillors G Swinbank, P Quinn, L Iddon, A Walker,  
V Chapman, B H Stoker, J G Huntington and S C Bird

TC 24/08 Public Question Time

There were no questions from members of the public.

TC 25/08 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors GMR Howe, D M Hancock, M Hardy and F Timmiss.

TC 26/08 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

TC 27/08 Minutes of Annual Council Meeting

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2008 be approved and adopted.

TC 28/08 Committees

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

- a) Service & Amenities - 9<sup>th</sup> June 2008
- b) Resources - 9<sup>th</sup> June 2008

TC 29/08 Police Report

There was no representative from the Police present at the meeting. Members expressed concerns at the levels of crime being experienced in the vicinity of Locomotion and Soho Cottages and it was resolved to request that regular police patrols are undertaken in this area.

TC 30/08 Report from representatives on outside bodies

- a) Notes of the meeting of the Shildon Children and Young Peoples Action Network held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2008 – **resolved** that the notes be received.
- b) Notes of the meeting of the Shildon Youth Forum held on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2008 - **resolved** that the notes be received.
- c) NALC Annual Conference – report from Councillor S C Bird – Councillor Bird presented a full written report from the Conference and it was **resolved** that Councillor Bird be thanked for his comprehensive report and that the report be received and noted.

TC 31/08 Annual Return 2007/08

The Town Clerk presented the draft Annual Return 2007/08 and explained the revised external audit arrangements that would apply to the Town Council with effect from 2007/08.

**Resolved** that:-

- a) the accounts for 2007/08 be approved and
- b) the annual governance statement for 2007/08 be approved.

TC 32/08 Annual Report 2007 and Performance Plan 2008

**Resolved** that the Annual Report 2007 and Performance Plan 2008 be approved and adopted.

TC 33/08 Annual Internal Audit Report 2007/08

**Resolved** that the Annual Internal Audit Report be accepted and noted.

TC 34/08 Consultation on Youth Alcohol Acton Plan

**Resolved** that the Youth Alcohol Acton Plan be welcomed in principle but a request be made for further work to be undertaken to investigate the reasons why young people are consuming the levels of alcohol that are being reported.

TC 35/08 Consultation on the Play Strategy

**Resolved** that the aims and objectives on the Play Strategy be supported and the Government be advised of the need to establish a linkage between the Play Strategy and the Youth Alcohol Action Plan with particular regard to the need to provide safe areas for play.

TC 36/08 Consultation on Parish Elections

**Resolved** that the Town Council oppose the proposal to hold parish council elections in County Durham in 2009 for the following reasons:-

- a) the need for democratic stability at the local level if the new unitary governance arrangements, particularly those for the empowerment and engagement of committees at the most local level are to be successful
- b) Members were elected in 2007 to serve, at that time, a term of four years and therefore should be afforded the opportunity to serve and least that term
- c) there is little or no evidence of any public appetite for a further round of elections
- d) parish elections should continue to be co-terminus with elections for the relevant principal authority and
- e) the potential cost implications for parish councils if the unitary authority does not agree to funding the elections.

TC 37/08 Nominations for the County Durham Association of Local Councils

**Resolved** that Councillor V Chapman be nominated for the County Executive Committee.

TC 38/08 Appreciations and Congratulations

a) Mayoral Engagements

**Resolved** that the mayoral engagements be noted.

b) Councillor A Walker on behalf of the Shildon Peoples Centre thanked the Town Mayor for her attendance at the celebration of the 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Centre.