

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Civic Hall Square, Shildon, Co Durham on 22nd September 2008.

Present: Councillor A Hammond,
Councillors G Swinbank, A Walker, J G Huntington, D M Hancock, S C Bird,
V Chapman, B H Stoker, G M R Howe and R Matthews (to Item No 12).

TC 52/08 Public Question Time

There were no questions from members of the public.

TC 53/08 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors P Quinn, F Timmiss, I Jackson, M Hardy and L Iddon.

TC 54/08 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

TC 55/08 Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting

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

TC 56/08 Committees

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

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| a) | Service & Amenities | - | 8 th September 2008 |
| b) | Resources | - | 8 th September 2008 |

TC 57/08 Police Report

The Town Mayor welcomed P C Brown to the meeting.

PC Brown advised that due to continuing difficulties being experienced with the crime recording system no crime figures for Shildon had been available since May. Hopefully the difficulties would be resolved in the very near future.

In the absence of the crime statistics PC Brown updated Members by providing details of progress with regards to recent incidents and also advised Members that a number of warrants in respect of drug issues had recently been successfully executed and also advised that with regard to the theft of scrap a number of arrests had been made.

TC 58/08 Replacement representative for the Shildon Community Safety Group

Resolved that Councillor F Timmiss be appointed as one of the Town Council's Representatives for the Shildon Community Safety Group.

TC 59/08 Replacement representative for the Shildon Children and Young People's Action Network

Resolved that Councillor B H Stoker be appointed as one of the Town Council's representatives for the Shildon Children and Young People's Action Network.

TC 60/08 CCTV Activity Report for the period April to July 2008

Resolved that the report be received.

TC 61/08 Retail Centres Framework – Shildon

Following detailed consideration of the report prepared by DTZ on behalf of Sedgfield Borough Council it was **resolved** that:-

- a) Sedgfield Borough Council be advised that whilst the Town Council had a number of reservations regarding the conclusions and recommendations in the report it was accepted as an independent view of the retail centre of Shildon.
- b) Sedgfield Borough Council be also advised of the wish of the Town Council to be consulted again in the future before any of the recommendations in the report are physically progressed.
- c) A request be made for the problem of rear access to a number of the retail outlets in the town to be addressed in any future town centre redevelopment project.
- d) A request be made to make the report available to the traders in the town.

TC 62/08 Consultation on County Durham Draft Sustainable Community Strategy

Resolved that:-

- a) The draft Strategy be supported and Durham County Council be advised that the Town Council looks forward to contributing, in partnership with the County Council, to the delivery of the Strategy in the future.
- b) Durham County Council be advised of the view of the Town Council that appropriate support from central government will be critical in ensuring that the aims and objectives of the strategy are met.

TC 63/08 Appreciations and Congratulations

- a) **Resolved** that the schedule of Mayoral engagements be noted.
- b) **Resolved** that consideration be given to the manner by which the efforts of Adam Churm in completing a Lands End to John O'Groats bicycle ride in support of the Pilgrim Club could be suitably recognised.

Councillor R Matthews left the meeting.

TC 64/08 Area Action Partnerships

Following detailed consideration of the decision of the Cabinet of Durham County Council to exclude Shildon as a geographical focal point for an Area Action Partnership it was unanimously **resolved** that :-

- a) The Town Council objects to the decision in the strongest possible terms.

- b) A request be made for an urgent meeting with the Leader of Durham County Council to discuss this matter and the Town Council be represented at the meeting by the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Town Council and the Town Clerk.

- c) The appropriate press and media be advised of the Town Council's objection to the decision as a matter of urgency.