

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Civic Hall Square, Shildon, Co Durham on 26th January 2009.

Present: Councillor A Hammond,
Councillors G Swinbank, A Walker, L Iddon, B H Stoker,
G G Lewis, H Nicholson, T M Bannister, G M R Howe,
D M Hancock, V Chapman, P Quinn and J G Huntington.

TC 104/08 Public Question Time

There were no questions from members of the public.

TC 105/08 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors S C Bird and F Timmiss.

TC 106/08 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

TC 107/08 Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 22nd December 2008 be approved and adopted.

TC 108/08 Committees

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

- a) Service & Amenities - 12th January 2009
- b) Resources - 12th January 2009

TC 109/08 Police Report

The Town Mayor welcomed PC Mugall to the meeting. PC Mugall presented the following cumulative comparative statistics for December of 2007 and 2008:-

An overall increase of 11% in reported incidents .

An increase of 5% in anti-social behaviour from 1078 incidents to 1134. However, in terms of youth related anti-social behaviour there was a reduction of 25%.

An overall increase of 6% in reported crimes from 764 to 811.

An increase of 217 in public safety incidents from 959 to 1161.

PC Mugall agreed to investigate and provide details of the burnt out car in Alma Road over the New Year period and also agreed to investigate the issue of late night drinking in public houses in the vicinity of Association Street.

Councillor Huntington stressed the importance of continuing to maintain the investment of resources in local policing on the back of positive results.

TC 110/08 Report from representatives on outside bodies

- a) Minutes of the meeting of the Shildon Community Safety Group held on 19th November 2008 – **resolved** that the minutes be received. Members were also advised of ongoing sessions being held in local schools by the Safety Group.
- b) Notes of the meeting of the Shildon Children and Young People's Network held on 16th December 2008 – **resolved** that the notes be received. In addition Members were advised that the churches and SCYPAN had secured funding to provide a dedicated Youth Development Worker for 20 hours per week from April 2009 to work with young people aged between 11 and 14.

TC 111/08 Development of a Shildon Youth Council

Resolved:-

- a) the Town Council supports the proposal to develop a Shildon Youth Council and
- b) the Town Council be represented on the Youth Council Working Group by Councillors P Quinn and B H Stoker together with an officer representative.

TC 112/08 Draft Local Council's Charter

Resolved that the development of a new Local Council's Charter be welcomed and the latest draft be endorsed.

TC 113/08 Draft Licensing Policy

Resolved:-

- a) that the draft licensing policy be endorsed and
- b) the Town Council's concern be raised regarding the proposed DCC elected member involvement in licensing matters whereby members will be able to consider applications for gambling licences in their area but not licences for the sale of alcohol.

TC 114/08 Durham County Council – School Admission Arrangements for 2010 and beyond

Resolved :

- a) that the Town Council Support the same criteria for admission for all community secondary schools
- b) that proposals be developed for the introduction of Catchment Areas to provide priority for admission to those residing within certain geographical areas
- c) that an explanation be sought regarding the treatment of Donna Humble's application for a primary school placement for her child in Shildon.

115/08 Appreciations and Congratulations

Resolved that the schedule of mayoral engagements be noted.

116/08 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.

117/08 Precept 2009/10

The Town Clerk presented the revised budget and precept requirement for 2009/10 following consideration of the original budget, etc at the meeting of the Resources Committee on 12th January 2009.

Following further detailed consideration the Council **resolved** :-

- a) the budget provision for wages costs at West Road cemetery be reduced by £2,350.
- b) public pedestrian access be made available to the cemetery at all times during the period April to September and the impact be monitored and reported to Members.
- c) the contribution to the Citizens Advice Bureau be reduced from £1,500 to £500
- d) the double taxation grant to be received from Durham County Council in the sum of £14,050 be applied in aid of the precept
- e) a presentation of the business plan for the Shildon People's Centre be made to a future meeting of the Town Council before any decision on financial assistance is made
- f) the request for financial assistance from the South West Durham Credit Union be received.

Taking account of the above the revised precept requirement of £628,210 which would require a Band D Council Tax of £218.13 an increase of £16.83 or 8.4% was proposed and seconded.

A recorded note was requested and Members voted as follows:-

For

Councillor A Hammond
Councillor L Iddon
Councillor B H Stoker
Councillor D M Hancock
Councillor J G Huntington
Councillor G Lewis
Councillor V Chapman

Against

Councillor P Quinn
Councillor G M R Howe

Councillor A Walker
Councillor H Nicholson
Councillor T M Bannister
Councillor G Swinbank

The motion was carried and it was **resolved** that a precept requirement of £628,210 be agreed for 2009/10.

It was further **resolved** that a public meeting to discuss the budget and precept requirement be held at a future date to be determined.