

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Civic Hall Square, Shildon, Co Durham on 23rd February 2009.

Present: Councillor A Hammond,
Councillors G Swinbank, A Walker, G M R Howe,
H Nicholson, T M Bannister, S C Bird, M S Hardy,
D Hancock, V Chapman, P Quinn and J G Huntington.

TC 118/08 Public Question Time

There were no questions from members of the public.

TC 119/08 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors G Lewis and B H Stoker.

TC 120/08 Declarations of Interest

Councillors H Nicholson and A Walker declared a prejudicial interest in Item 14 - Presentation of Business Plan by the Shildon People's Centre because of their involvement in the management of the Centre and Councillor A Hammond declared a personal interest in the same item.

TC 121/08 Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26th January 2009 be approved and adopted.

TC 122/08 Committees

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

- a) Service & Amenities - 9th February 2009
- b) Resources - 9th February 2009

TC 123/08 Police Report

Acting Sergeant Brown provided the following statistics for the month of January:-

Assaults	8	
Sexual Offences	-	
Robbery	-	
Burglary – dwelling	7	(primarily empty properties)
Burglary – other	9	
Criminal damage	30	(stone throwing – windows/passing vehicles)
Theft from vehicle	8	
Theft of vehicle	2	
Thefts	34	(shoplifting – Factory Shop/Coop)
Fraud	-	
Drug offence	1	
Youths causing annoyance	22	

Sergeant Brown also provided details of the Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings which were a Government initiative.

The purpose of the meetings was to provide a direct interface between the police and its partners and the local communities. The meetings would be open to the public and would be held monthly in each ward of the town. Each month three priorities for action would be determined for each area and the outcome of the meetings would be reported to the relevant Inspector.

The meetings would be advertised by posters throughout the town and in the Town Crier. The next scheduled meetings are as follows:-

Thickley	-	6.30 pm on 10 th March	-	Jubilee Fields Community Centre
Byerley	-	6.30 pm on 18 th March	-	Civic Hall
Sunnydale	-	7.30 pm on 18 th March	-	Civic Hall

Members welcomed the introduction of the PACT meetings and expressed a view that the outcomes of the meetings should be reported to the managerial hierarchy of the of Durham Constabulary to ensure that policy priorities are influenced by these outcomes.

Members also requested that both the license hours of the Red Lion and the recent incidents which resulted in damage being caused to two bus shelters in Middleton Road be investigated.

TC 124/08 Report from representatives on outside bodies

- a) Minutes of the meeting of the Shildon Community Safety Group held on 21st January 2009 – **resolved** that the minutes be received.
- b) Notes of the meeting of the Shildon Children and Young People's Network held on 22nd January 2009 – **resolved** that the notes be received.

TC 125/09 Correspondence with Sedgfield Borough Council re. Neighbourhood Warden Service

Resolved that :-

- a) Sedgfield Borough Council be advised of the Town Council's concerns at the content of the response from the Borough Council.
- b) Copies of the correspondence be provided to Durham County Council for consideration in the development of the service post vesting day.
- b) The potential introduction of Dog Control Orders for Hackworth Park be investigated and a report be presented to Members for consideration.

TC 126/08 Consultation on Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity

Resolved the Department of Committees and Local Government be advised that the Town Council were of the opinion that a single code of practice should apply to all local authorities including town and parish councils.

TC 127/08 Consultation on Sedgefield Borough Draft Green Space Strategy

Resolved that a response be submitted to Sedgefield Borough Council as outlined in the report with an additional comment regarding the lack of open space provision in New Shildon.

TC 128/08 Nomination for Buckingham Palace Garden Parties

Resolved that the Town Mayor be nominated.

TC 129/08 Appreciations and Congratulations

Resolved that the schedule of mayoral engagements be noted.

Details of an informal meeting of the Larger Local Councils Forum to be held on Friday, 1st May 2009 at Spennymoor Town Hall were provided and it was **resolved** that Members wishing to attend were to advise the Town Clerk accordingly as soon as possible.

Members were advised that the public meeting to consider the Town Council's precept for 2009/2010 was to be held in the Civic Hall on 4th March 2009 at 6.30 pm.

TC130/08 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.

TC 131/08 Presentation of Business Plan by the Shildon People's Centre

The Town Mayor welcomed Claire Nixon from the Shildon People's Centre who presented the Business Plan for the three years to 2011/2012. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

Following consideration of the presentation it was **resolved** that the matter be further considered at the meeting of the Resources Committee to be held on 9th March 2009.