

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Civic Hall Square, Shildon, Co Durham on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2009.

Present: Councillor A Hammond,  
Councillors G Swinbank, A Walker, L Iddon, T M Bannister,  
H Nicholson, B H Stoker, G G Lewis, D M Hancock,  
V Chapman (from Item No 6) and J G Huntington.

TC 132/08 Public Question Time

There were no questions from members of the public.

TC 133/08 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor S C Bird.

TC 134/08 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

TC 135/08 Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2009 be approved and adopted.

TC 136/08 Committees

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

- |    |                     |   |                            |
|----|---------------------|---|----------------------------|
| a) | Service & Amenities | - | 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2009 |
| b) | Resources           | - | 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2009 |

TC 137/08 Police Report

General

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

Assaults	9
Sexual Offences	1
Robbery	-
Burglary – dwelling	7
Burglary – other	8
Criminal damage	15
Theft from vehicle	8
Theft of vehicle	1
Thefts	29
Fraud	2
Drug offence	1
Youths causing annoyance	16

Acting Sergeant Brown also updated Members on the following:-

- a) The licensing hours of the Red Lion were confirmed, a number of visits had been made and the situation was being monitored.
- b) No further action was to be taken against the driver who damaged the stone bus shelter on Middleton Road. The identity of the driver who damaged the steel bus shelter on Middleton Road remained unknown.
- c) Future PACT meetings were to be held as follows:-
  - Thickley - 6.30 pm on 7<sup>th</sup> April at Jubilee Fields Community Centre
  - Byerley - 6.30 pm on 15<sup>th</sup> April at the Civic Hall
  - Sunnydale - 7.30 pm on 15<sup>th</sup> April at the Civic Hall

The following priorities had been identified at the March PACT meetings:-

- Thickley - youths playing football around Birch Avenue  
- speeding vehicles at Dale Road
  - Byerley - speeding vehicles at St John's Road, etc  
- parking in the Ruskin Avenue area
  - Sunnydale - policing in the Association Street/Church Street area
- d) A number of arrests had been made in New Shildon and quantities of drugs, cash and stolen property had been retrieved.

Members raised the following concerns:-

- a) Youths congregating on the Town Square throwing missiles at passing cars and damaging planted areas.
- b) Speeding vehicles on highway between Hackett and Baines and Thornhill Primary School.
- c) Speeding off-road motor cycles on Dale Road.

#### Town Square CCTV

A report from Sedgfield Borough Council was considered and Members expressed concern at the apparent inadequacy of the existing cameras and it was **resolved** that Sedgfield Borough Council be requested to provide an explanation.

It was also confirmed that the CCTV equipment had been included in the schedule of assets to be transferred to Durham County Council from April, 2009.

#### TC 138/08 Report from representatives on outside bodies

- a) Minutes of the meeting of the Shildon Community Safety Group held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2009 – **resolved** that the minutes be received.

- b) Citizens Advice Bureau – Councillor Huntington advised that a campaign would be undertaken to recruit additional volunteers to cope with the demand caused by the current economic climate. He also advised of the receipt of additional grant funding from Sedgfield Borough Council.

TC 139/08 Electoral Review of County Durham Unitary Authority

**Resolved** that, following confirmation of the council size of 126 elected members, a report be prepared for consideration in April or May 2009 detailing the options for the future electoral divisions for Shildon.

TC 140/08 Local Government Services Pay Arbitration

**Resolved** that the final settlement of 2.75% be noted.

TC 141/08 Area Action Partnerships (AAP's) Inaugural events and related matters

**Resolved** that:-

- a) All members be encouraged to attend the inaugural Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP Forum meeting to be held at Jubilee Fields Community Centre on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2009.
- b) The proposal to replace the existing County Durham Association of Local Councils district committees with AAP based committees be supported.
- c) The proposal for the AAP based committee to select the town and parish council representative for the relevant AAP Board be supported.
- d) The Town Council is to take the lead to organise a meeting of the local councils within the Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP before the inaugural meeting of the AAP Forum referred to in a) above.
- e) Discussions to be held with Durham County Council regarding the possible use of the Members Room as the base for the AAP Co-ordinator and related staff and subject to the outcome a further report be presented to the Town Council in due course.

TC 142/08 Corporate Risk Report and Action Plan

**Resolved** that the Corporate Risk Report and Action Plan be approved and quarterly progress reports be presented to the Town Council during 2009/10 detailing progress in the delivery of the action plan.

TC 143/08 Review of the Effectiveness of Internal Audit

**Resolved** that whilst the Town Council confirms the effectiveness of the current system of internal audit the system could be improved by formalising the production and approval of the annual audit plan.

It was **resolved** that the internal auditor be provided with a copy of the Corporate Risk Action Plan for consideration in the development of the annual audit plan.

TC 144/08 Appreciations and Congratulations

- a) **Resolved** that the schedule of mayoral engagements be noted.
- b) The Town Mayor paid compliments to all who had served the community of Shildon as elected members of Sedgefield Borough Council since 1974. In addition the Town Mayor also congratulated Councillors J G Huntington, V Chapman and I Jackson on their award of Honorary Alderman status.