

## Spennymoor Town Council

Minutes of the proceedings of a Meeting of SPENNYMOOR TOWN COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Spennymoor on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2007 at 6.45p.m.

PRESENT: Mrs.J.L.Wood (Town Mayor), and

Councillors Miss S.L.Armstrong, J.C.Culine, J.V.Graham, Miss T.Graham, I.Harrington (Deputy Town Mayor), G.Heslop, M.T.B.Jones, Mrs.E.Maddison, J.E.Plews, F.E.Ryder, Mrs.C.Sproat, G.Tolley, F.Walker, W.Waters and Mrs.E.M.Wood.

Also in attendance Mrs.P.Wilson (Town Clerk)  
Miss E.V.Russell (Admin Assistant)

APOLOGIES: Councillors Mrs.C.Bainbridge, C.Maddison, J.M.Marr, J.Parkin, K.Thompson and J.W.Smith.

63/07. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.**

RESOLVED - No personal or prejudicial interest was made by any Member.

64/07 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS.**

RESOLVED - No questions had been received from Members of the Public in accordance with Standing Order 12.

65/07. **MINUTES.**

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2007 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

66/07. **MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.**

The Deputy Mayor reported on the functions the Town Mayor had attended since the last meeting:-

- a) Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November - Town Mayor attended Peterlee Town Council Mayor's Charity Ball;
- b) Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November - Deputy Mayor attended Shildon Town Council Charity Evening;
- c) Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November - Town Mayor official lit the Bonfire at the Fireworks Display – collection raised over £1,500 towards the Mayor's Charity;
- d) Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November - Deputy Mayor attended Chilton Town Council 'Night at the Proms';
- e) Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November - Town Mayor together with Councillors and the Town Clerk attended Remembrance Service held in the Town Hall and at the Cenotaph;

- f) Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November - Town Mayor attended Showmen's Guild Annual Luncheon;
- g) Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November - Town Mayor attended City of Durham, Tour of the Cathedral followed by Dinner in the Undercroft Restaurant;
- h) Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November -Town Mayor attended Chester-le-Street District Council Chairman's Charity Evening.

67/07.

**COMMITTEE MINUTES.**

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meetings of the following Committees be approved

Allotments	6 <sup>th</sup> November, 2007
Finance and General Purposes	6 <sup>th</sup> November, 2007

Planning and Highways 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2007  
*(subject to the following amendment:-  
 Councillor J.Parkin's apologies be added)*

Services and Amenities 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2007  
*(subject to the following amendments:-  
 Councillor J.Parkin's apologies be added)*

*Minute S.&A.100/07 'That the recommendations of the Town Clerk be received and implemented'.)*

There being no further business the Town Mayor declared the meeting closed at 6.55pm.

**Councillor Mrs J.L.Wood  
 Town Mayor**

## Spennymoor Town Council

Minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Spennymoor on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2007 at 6.45p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor G.Tolley (Vice-Chair) and

Councillors J.C.Culine, J.V.Graham, Miss T.Graham, I.Harrington, M.T.B.Jones, Mrs.E.Maddison, J.M.Marr, J.Parkin, J.E.Plews, Mrs.C.Sproat, F.Walker, W.Waters and Mrs.E.M.Wood.

Also in attendance Mrs.P.Wilson (Town Clerk)  
Mrs.B.Fryer (Principal Admin Officer)

APOLOGIES: Councillors Mrs.C.Bainbridge (Chair), Miss S.L.Armstrong, G.Heslop, C.Maddison, F.E.Ryder, J.W.Smith, K.Thompson and Mrs.J.L.Wood

A.50/07. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.**

RESOLVED - No personal or prejudicial interest was made by any Member.

A.51/07. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS.**

RESOLVED - No questions had been received from Members of the Public in accordance with Standing Order 12.

A.52/07. **SPENNYMOOR ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION**

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2007 be received.

A.53/07. **ST. PAUL'S GARDENS ALLOTMENTS.**

Reference was made to Minute A.43/07 and Members gave further consideration to this matter and to the views of the Allotment Association.

RESOLVED - That permission be granted for the proposal outlined in his letter.

*The Chair exercised his statutory discretion to take an urgent item of business not previously included on the circulated Agenda.*

A.54/07.

**MERRINGTON LANE ALLOTMENTS.**

As Members were aware, the Town Council had made a decision in principle to sell the above allotment site **subject** to consultation with the tenants and the consent of the Secretary of State.

Following advice from the Town Clerk, to avoid people taking on additional allotments on that site, given that there is no waiting list, the Town Clerk recommends that no further allotments on the site shall be let until the consultation period has ended and the Secretary of State has issued their decision on the proposed sale. This is to prevent people from attempting to maximise their potential compensation.

RESOLVED

The list of tenants and the details of the plots occupied on this site, as supplied to the Town Clerk by Mr.A.Shearer the Steward of these Allotments on September 6<sup>th</sup> 2007, shall be the list of names and plot occupancies used to determine any compensation payable in the event that the proposed sale proceeds.

**SEASONS GREETINGS**

The Vice-Chair on behalf of the Chair of Committee wished everyone compliments of the season.

*There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.50p.m.*

Councillor G.Tolley  
Vice-Chair

## Spennymoor Town Council

Minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Spennymoor on Tuesday 4<sup>TH</sup> December, 2007 on the rising of the Allotments Committee.

PRESENT: Councillor J.Parkin (Chair) and

Councillors J.C.Culine, J.V.Graham, Miss T.Graham, I.Harrington, M.T.B.Jones, Mrs.E.Maddison, J.M.Marr, J.E.Plews (Vice-Chair), Mrs.C.Sproat, G.Tolley, F.Walker, W.Waters and Mrs.E.M.Wood.

Also in attendance Mrs.P.Wilson (Town Clerk)  
Mrs.B.Fryer (Principal Admin Officer)

APOLOGIES: Councillors Miss S.L.Armstrong, Mrs.C.Bainbridge, G.Heslop, C.Maddison, F.E.Ryder, J.W.Smith, K.Thompson, and Mrs.J.L.Wood.

F.&G.P. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.**

150/07. RESOLVED - Declaration of prejudicial interest was made by Councillor J.C.Culine.

F.&G.P. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS.**

151/07. RESOLVED - No questions had been received from Members of the Public in accordance with Standing Order 12.

F.&G.P. **CCTV.**

152/07. *Councillor G.Heslop entered the meeting during this item*

Reference was made to Minute F.&G.P.103/07 and Andrew Aitken and Dennis Scarr, Sedgefield Borough Council attended and addressed Members on the above matter.

RESOLVED - The Two Officers were thanked for their informative presentation.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.**

F.&G.P. **Spennymoor Ladies Bowling Club.**

153/07. Reference was made to Minute F.&G.P.72/07 refers and it was

RESOLVED - That the letter of appreciation be received.

F.&G.P.  
154/07. **Victim Support County Durham.**  
Members considered letter dated 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2007 from P. Garvin,  
Chair Elect.

RESOLVED - That consideration of this matter be deferred to  
enable the Town Clerk to obtain information on  
what other Councils may donate.

F.&G.P.  
155/07. **Myasthenia Gravis Association.**  
*(Councillor J.C.Culine declared a prejudicial interest in this matter and  
left the meeting)*  
Members considered letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2007 from Mr. T.  
Stephenson.

RESOLVED - To reimburse the hire fee of £52.00 in accordance  
with S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

F.&G.P.  
156/07. **Open Spaces Society.**  
Members considered letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2007 from the above.

RESOLVED - That a grant of £150 be made in accordance with  
S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

F.&G.P.  
157/07. **Durham County Schools' Football Association.**  
Reference was made to Minute F.&G.P.100/07 and Members  
considered letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2007

RESOLVED - That a grant of £200 be made in accordance with  
S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

F.&G.P.  
158/07. **COUNTY DURHAM ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS.**  
**Information and Engagement Event.**  
Members considered the notification of the above to be held on 30th  
January 2008.

RESOLVED - That the Town Council be represented by the  
Chair and Vice-Chair of Planning and Highways  
Cttee ; two Members and an Officer.

F.&G.P.  
159/07. **Questions.**  
RESOLVED - To receive the contents of the letter issued by the  
Association.

## **CONFERENCES AND COURSES.**

F.&G.P.  
160/07.

### **National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners Ltd.**

Members considered the notification of the above to be held in Coventry on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2008 together with the request for Nominations for 2 Local Authority Members to serve for 2 years on the National Management Committee and 3 Members to serve for 2 years on the Standing Orders Committee.

- RESOLVED -
- i) That Councillor G.Tolley be nominated to serve as a Local Authority Member on the National Management Committee for 2 years;
  - ii) That Standing Orders be waived to allow the nomination to be sent immediately.

F.&G.P.  
161/07.

### **NALC - Local Leadership in Action Conference 30 January 2008.**

Members considered the notification of the above to be held in London.

- RESOLVED - That the Town Council be not represented on this occasion.

## **AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS.**

F.&G.P.  
162/07.

### **NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETION OF THE AUDIT.**

Members considered the letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> October from Steve Nicklin, District Auditor.

- RESOLVED - That the letter be received and the contents noted.

F.&G.P.  
163/07.

### **STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND.**

- RESOLVED - To receive and note the contents of Issues 1, 2 and 3 of The Daily Detail.

## **CENTRAL DURHAM CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE.**

F.&G.P.  
164/07.

### **2007/2008 Contributions to Constituent Authorities.**

- RESOLVED – To receive and note the contents of letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2007 from the above.

F.&G.P.  
165/07.

### **Minutes.**

- RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2007 be received.

F.&G.P.  
166/07.

### **ELECTROLUX.**

Reference was made to Minute F.&G.P.126/07 and consideration was given to the report of the Town Clerk (to follow).

- RESOLVED - That the report be received and noted.

## **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.**

F.&G.P.  
167/07.

### **Paid Accounts.**

RESOLVED -

To confirm payment of accounts in the sum of £21,732.28 authorised for payment, payments by BACS in the sum of £36,367.31 for November and reimbursement of the Imprest Account in the sum of £19,308.10 for November.

F.&G.P.  
168/07.

### **Accounts to Authorise.**

RESOLVED -

To authorise the payment of accounts in the sum of £40,928.49 for November.

F.&G.P.  
169/07.

## **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.**

RESOLVED -

That in accordance with the provisions of S1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by S100 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council do now exclude the press and public for the remaining items of the Agenda by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted since publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

## **ESTABLISHMENT.**

F.&G.P.  
170/07.

### **2007/08 National Salary Award.**

RESOLVED -

To receive the notifications from NALC and NJC in connection with the above

F.&G.P.  
171/07.

## **LAND ISSUES.**

Reference was made to Minute F.&G.P.149/07 and further consideration was given to this deferred matter and to the report of the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED -

- i) That recommendation a) contained in the report be agreed; and
- ii) That further consideration be deferred pending further information being obtained on the cost of the Town Council applying for planning permission.

F.&G.P.  
172/07.

## **BUDGET CONTROL.**

RESOLVED -

That the Budget Control Reports showing information up to 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2007 be received and noted.

F.&G.P.  
173/07.

**TOWN HALL BAR.**

Discussion ensued on this report and the staffing hours allocated to each function. Members referred to the ratio that should be applied to each function.

- RESOLVED -
- i) That the report on Monthly Profit and Loss be received and noted; and
  - ii) That the Bar Manager be advised “that in future the Town Council would not authorise payment of staff, if the staffing ratio exceeded the 1 member of staff per every 50 anticipated guests “(this being the Town Council approved staffing ratio for bar functions, previously advised to the Bar Manager by elected Members in the Town Clerk’s absence)

**SEASONS GREETINGS**

The Chair of Committee wished everyone compliments of the season.

*There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.30p.m.*

Councillor J.Parkin  
Chair

## Spennymoor Town Council

Minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Spennymoor on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2007 at 6.45p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Miss S.L.Armstrong (Chair) and

Councillors J.C.Culine, J.V.Graham, Miss T.Graham, I.Harrington, M.T.B.Jones, C.Maddison, Mrs.E.Maddison, J.Parkin, J.E.Plews, J.W.Smith, Mrs.C.Sproat, G.Tolley, F.Walker, Mrs.E.M.Wood and Mrs.J.L.Wood.

Also in attendance Mrs.P.Wilson (Town Clerk)  
Miss E.V.Russell (Admin Assistant)  
Sgt Mark Hall (Spennymoor Police)  
PC Dawn Southern (Spennymoor Police)  
2 Members of the Public

APOLOGIES: Councillors Mrs.C.Bainbridge, G.Heslop, J.M.Marr, F.E.Ryder (Vice-Chair), K.Thompson and W.Waters

P.&H. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.**

59/07. RESOLVED - Declarations of Interest were received from Councillor Mrs E. Maddison and Mrs E.Wood.

P.&H. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS.**

60/07. RESOLVED - No questions had been received from Members of the Public in accordance with Standing Order 12.

P.&H. **POLICE REPORT.**

61/07. *(Councillor F.E.Ryder entered the meeting)*

RESOLVED - That the Police Report be received and the Officers thanked for their attendance.

*(Sgt Mark Hall and PC Dawn Southern left the meeting to return to duty)*

P.&H. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS.**

62/07. Members had before them the schedule of planning applications received to date from Sedgfield Borough Council, since the last meeting and the comments made upon them by the Chairman.

RESOLVED - That the information and the Chairman's action be received and noted.

P.&H.  
63/07. **Planning Decisions.**  
Members had before them details of planning decisions made by Sedgefield Borough Council.

RESOLVED - That the information be received and noted.

P.&H.  
64/07 **Proposed Lidl Foodstore.**  
*(Councillors Mrs E.Maddison and Mrs E. Wood declared a prejudicial interest in items 5c and 5d and left the meeting)*

RESOLVED - That the contents of letter dated 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2007 from G. Raffety, Regional Property Director be received and noted.

P.&H.  
65/07. **Sedgefield Borough Council.**  
**Residential development and associated means of access (outline application), Former Greyhound Stadium, Spennymoor.**

Members considered the applications received from Sedgefield Borough Council in connection with the above proposed development.

RESOLVED - That the Town Council place NO OBJECTION to the application.

*(Councillors Mrs E.Maddison and Mrs E.Wood returned to the meeting)*

P.&H.  
66/07. **SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL.**  
**Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012.**

RESOLVED - To receive the above document.

P.&H.  
67/07. **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL.**  
**County Durham Overview and Scrutiny Member Network – Transport Investigation.**

Members considered letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2007 from T. Bolton, Principal Scrutiny Officer.

RESOLVED - That a letter be sent to Durham County Council informing them of the concerns of the residents in relation to the Number 15 bus which runs around the Greenways Estate.

P.&H.  
68/07. **Local Transport Plan 2 (2006-2011).**

RESOLVED - To receive and note the contents of the above document.

P.&H.  
69/07.

**EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.**

RESOLVED - That in accordance with the provisions of S1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by S100 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council do now exclude the press and public for the remaining items of the Agenda by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted since publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

P.&H.  
70/07.

**BUS SHELTERS.**

**Durham Street, Middlestone Moor.**

Reference was made to Minute P.&H.31/07 and Members considered the complaint form received from Mrs G.Rose, regarding the decision made in relation to the bus shelter adjacent to her property.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That a letter be sent to Durham County Council informing them that the post adjacent to the bus shelter (to improve visibility) had not yet been removed;
- (b) That a letter be sent to Mrs Rose informing her that the previous decision stands and to outline the next step of the complaints procedure.

*There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.15p.m.*

Councillor Miss S.L.Armstrong  
Chair

## Spennymoor Town Council

Minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the SERVICES AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Spennymoor on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2007 at 6.45p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor J.W.Smith (Chair)

Councillors J.C.Culine(Vice-Chair), J.V.Graham, Miss T.Graham, I.Harrington, M.T.B.Jones, C.Maddison, Mrs.E.Maddison, J.Parkin, J.E.Plews, F.E.Ryder, Mrs.C.Sproat, G.Tolley, F.Walker, Mrs.E.M.Wood and Mrs.J.L.Wood.

Also in attendance Mrs.P.Wilson (Town Clerk)  
Miss E.V.Russell (Admin Assistant)  
1 members of the public

APOLOGIES: Councillors Miss S.L.Armstrong, Mrs.C.Bainbridge, G.Heslop, J.M.Marr, K.Thompson and W.Waters.

### S.&A. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.**

101/07. RESOLVED - No personal or prejudicial interest was made by any Member.

### S.&A. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS.**

102/07. A public question was received from D. Gordon, as follows :-  
'As nearly all newly planted trees in the Dene are affected by vandalism, could I suggest that you cut your losses and remove all of these and make a public statement telling all why such action has taken place'.

Mr D. Gordon was in attendance to address Members.

RESOLVED - (a) That the trees in the Dene be replaced and protected with tree guards;  
(b) That an article be placed in the Town Council Newsletter and Spennynews in connection with the vandalism.

### **CEMETERIES AND CLOSED CHURCHYARDS.**

#### S.&A. **Spennymoor Cemetery.**

103/07. Reference was made to Minute S.&A.9/07 and Members considered the report of the Chair of Committee on the site meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2007.

RESOLVED - That a revisit take place with an officer from the Council and a meeting afterwards to discuss how to take the matter forward.

S.&A.  
103/07. **Cemetery of the Year Awards.**  
RESOLVED - To receive the Judges Feedback for the 2007 Competition.

S.&A.  
104/07. **PARKS AND OPEN SPACES.**  
**Trees to rear of 11/15 Deneside, Spennymoor.**  
Members considered the report of the Project Manager.

RESOLVED - That the Project Manager investigate the possibility of pruning the trees and report back to Committee.

S.&A.  
105/07. **APPRECIATION.**  
RESOLVED - That the following correspondence be received and the contents noted:-

email received 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2007 from Joan and Peter Gay.

S.&A.  
106/07. **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.**  
RESOLVED - That in accordance with the provisions of S1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by S100 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council do now exclude the press and public for the remaining items of the Agenda by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted since publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

S.&A.  
107/07. **TOWN HALL**  
**Clock Tower – Water Ingress**  
Members considered the recommendations contained in the report of Architects following an inspection in relation to water ingress into the Clock Tower and Caretakers Flat.

RESOLVED - (a) That recommendations 5.1 – 5.3 be implemented;

(b) The Town Clerk contact HLB to ascertain if weatherproofing was part of the previous scheme.

S.&A.  
108/07. **John Kitson Archway.**  
Members considered the progress report from J. Temple, Capita Symonds.

RESOLVED - That the item be deferred.

S.&A.  
109/07.

**INVESTMENT IN FIXED PLAY AREAS.**

Members considered the feedback from the Groundwork Trust in relation to the site meetings that took place on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2007.

- RESOLVED -
- (a) To confirm the action of the meeting;
  - (b) That a Play Area Working Group meeting be arranged for Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2007 at 9.30am.

**SEASONS GREETINGS**

The Chair of Committee wished everyone compliments of the season.

*There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.*

Councillor J.W.Smith  
Chair

