

City of Durham

At a Meeting of **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in the Town Hall, Durham, on Monday, 6th March, 2006 at 5.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Pape (in the Chair)
and Councillors Crathorne, Dickie, Freeman, Hopgood, Howarth, Robinson, Simmons, Simpson, Walton and Wolstenholme.

Also Present: Councillors: Hepplewhite, Kellett, Moderate, Stoddart, Southwell, Taylor, Wynn and Young

525. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

526. MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of 31st January, 2006, 17th February, 2006 and 20th February, 2006 were confirmed as a correct record.

527. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chairman informed Members that nominations for the Council Procedures Working Group had been received.

Liberal Democrat: Councillors: Pitts, Shaw, Simmons, Thomson

Labour: Councillors: Kellett, & Syer

Independent: Councillors Dickie

528. FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the Forward Plan, which was effective from 1st March, 2006, and Councillor Howarth informed Members that she had contacted the head of Housing Services to request an update on Supporting People/Value Improvement Programme.

529. DECISIONS TAKEN BY PORTFOLIO HOLDERS SINCE LAST MEETING

A copy of the schedule indicating the decisions taken by Portfolio Holders since the last Meeting is attached at Appendix A.

Members queried two decisions relating to the wording of the nature of the decision and were advised that a written reply would be sent to them detailing information requested. Also, Councillor Wynn gave clarification to decision no. 15 regarding the amount the waiving of Contract Procedure Rules and procurement of goods to a value of £23000.00 not £23,00 from a single supplier recommended by Durham County Council.

530. CABINET DECISIONS 22ND FEBRUARY, 2006

The Cabinet report had been noted and there were no items on which the Committee wished to comment.

531. REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL

The Environment Scrutiny Panel had been requested to scrutinise Unauthorised Parking on Council Land. A report on the scrutiny was circulated.

Recommended: That subject to the replacement of the responsible Officer's name with his job title, the report be submitted to Cabinet for consideration

532. VERBAL UPDATE ON PROGRESS FROM SCRUTINY PANELS

The Chairmen of the various Scrutiny Panels gave verbal reports on the progress of their respective Scrutiny topics for the information of Members.

533. SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR SCRUTINY

The Chair asked the Committee for their views relating to the recent presentation of the Swimming Pool Risk Register and whether the Swimming Pool was a suitable topic for scrutiny.

Members stated they were content adequate controls were in place to manage risks to the development and wished to be kept informed of such management. They asked to see the bi-monthly reports and reserved the right to question any slippage in delivery or escalation of risk.

The Chair then asked Members of the Committee to confirm that this was acceptable and on being put to a vote, it was carried, 9 votes in favour.

Meeting terminated at 6.05 p.m.

Chairman

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
6 March 2006
DECISIONS TAKEN BY PORTFOLIO MEMBERS

Portfolio Member	Nature of Decision	Date
Councillor Wynn	Application received from Ms Stefanie Michelson of 87 Cook Avenue, Bearpark to purchase an area of Council land adjacent to 87 Cook Avenue, Bearparth for use as off-street parking and additional domestic garden. Recommend that application be approved subject to the applicant fulfilling certain conditions	16.1.06
Councillor Southwell & Councillor Wynn	Application received in respect of a Home Loss payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicant from her home (Ref 290). The applicant currently has outstanding rent arrears of £26.79 and is asking for the sum of £3,400. Recommend payment of £,3400 but deduction of rent arrears to be made first	18.1.06
Councillor Southwell	Application received in respect of a Disturbance payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicant from her home (Ref 290). The applicant has asked for the fixed payment of £1,000 as she was displaced from a One Bedroom Bungalow Recommend that the payment of £1,000 be made to the applicant.	9.1.06
Councillor Woods	To approve the granting of a further grazing licence to a Mr Mortimer of 110 Parkhouse Gardens, Sherburn Village subject to a slight increase in the annual licence fee. Recommended to approve the licence.	16.1.06
Councillor Rae	SRB6 Improving the heart of the villages grants approved for Esh Winning Cricket Club - £1380 St Pauls Methodist Church Kelloe - £3,230	1.12.05
Councillor Wynn	Application received from Mr Box of 82 Taylor Avenue Bearpark enquiring if the council would consider leasing to him land to the rear of his property for use as additional garden land. Recommended that the application be approved subject to conditions.	26.1.06
Councillor Holland	Application for a Durham City Enterprise Grant of £500 received from Allan Flowers T/A Allan's Bar Catering Supplies (ABCS)	27.1.06
Councillor Holland	Application for a Durham City Enterprise Grant of £1,000 divided as follows:- David Burke T/A DAB Courier Services - £500 Mark Allen T/A Chekus - £500	27.1.06
Councillor Reynolds	Application received from Durham County Council requesting the granting of Licence to carry out works at Carrside/Finchale Road, Framwellgate Moor for widening footways at the loction. Recommend application approval subject to conditions	2.2.06
Councillor Reynolds	Application received from Mr Barras of 1 Hillside View,	2.2.06

	<p>Sherburn Village enquiring if the Council would sell to him land adjacent to his property for use as private off-street parking and garden use.</p> <p>Recommend that subject to certain conditions a proportion of the land be sold to applicant</p>	
Councillor Rae	<p>Application for SRB Improving the Heart of the Villages grant in respect of</p> <p>Esh Winning Cricket Club - £1,380.00 St Pauls Methodist Church, Kelloe - £3,230.00</p> <p>Recommend approval of grants</p>	1.12.05
Councillor Southwell	<p>Application received in respect of a Disturbance Payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicants from their home (Ref 291). The applicants have asked for the fixed payment of £1,000 as they were displaced from a One Bedroom Bungalow.</p> <p>Recommend that a payment of £1,000 be made to the applicants.</p>	31.1.06
Councillor Southwell	<p>Application received in respect of a Home Loss payment as a result of the Council compulsorily displacing the applicants from their home (Ref 291). The applicants have asked for a payment of £3,400.</p> <p>Recommend a payment of £3,400 be made to the applicants.</p>	31.1.06
Councillor Holland	<p>Application for a Durham City Enterprise Grant of £500 as follows:</p> <p>Craig Jordan & Paul Haddon T/A J H Partners Consulting Engineers Ltd. - £500</p>	8.2.06
Councillor Wynn	<p>Application to waive Contract Procedure Rules under Contract Procedure Rule 5.1g to allow the purchase of new equipment and supplies to permit the re-issue of bus passes by 1.4.06 as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>Recommend the waiving of Contract Procedure Rules and procure goods to a value of £23,00.00 from a single supplier recommended by Durham County Council</p>	14.2.06
Councillor Wynn	<p>Application for financial assistant from Free the Way, a non-profitable organisation, established in Seaham, helping families and carers of young people suffering the effects of drug abuse.</p> <p>Recommend that the application be refused because it does not appear to directly benefit residents within the local area.</p>	17.1.06
Councillor Woods	<p>Application has been received from the Secretary of the Regatta Committee requesting the closure of the riverside footpaths for the Regatta which will be held on Saturday, 10 June and Sunday 11 June 2006. The temporary closure would be from Friday, 9 June until Monday 12 June to allow for the erection and dismantling of a Commentary Box and transporting of Pay-Boxes.</p> <p>Recommend the closures be approved and Council gives usual assistance</p>	7.2.06