

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL OF EASINGTON  
HELD ON THURSDAY 10 JANUARY 2008**

Present: Councillor Mrs. M. Nugent (Chair)

Councillors Mrs. M. Baird, E. Bell, S. Bishop,  
Mrs. G. Bleasdale, A. Burnip, R Burnip,  
P.J. Campbell, A. Collinson, Mrs. E.M. Connor,  
R. Crute, Mrs. S.Forster, J. Haggan,  
H. High, Mrs. E. Huntington, G. Johnson,  
Mrs A. E. Laing, T. Longstaff, Mrs. J. Maitland,  
Mrs. J. Maslin, K. McGonnell, D. Milsom,  
D. Myers, A. Napier, G. Patterson,  
G. Pinkney, B. Quinn, D. Raine, F. Shaw,  
R. Taylor, D. J. Taylor-Gooby, T. Unsworth,  
C. Walker, P. G. Ward and Mrs V. M. Williams.

1. **THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF EASINGTON** held on 6 December 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were confirmed.
2. **THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE** held on 4 December 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were submitted.

**RESOLVED** that the decision taken, be noted.

3. **CALCULATION OF COUNCIL TAX BASE 2008/2009 AND COUNCIL TAX POWERS**

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Financial Management on the calculation of the Council Tax base for 2008/2009, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The Head of Financial Management reported that in order to fulfil obligations under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 with regard to tax setting, the Council must, before 31 January 2008, determine the Council Tax base for the whole of the District and those parts of the District known as Parish Councils.

**RESOLVED** that:-

- (a) the report of the Head of Financial Management for the calculation of the Council's Tax Base for the year 2008/2009 be approved;
- (b) pursuant to the report of the Head of Financial Management and in accordance with the Local Authorities [Calculation of Tax Base] Regulations 1992, as amended by the Local Authorities [Calculation of Council Tax Base] [Amendment] [England] Regulations 2003, the relevant amounts calculated by the District of Easington Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2008/2009 shall be 26,997.1;
- (c) pursuant to the report of the Head of Financial Management and in accordance with the Local Authorities [Calculation of Tax Base] Regulations 1992, as amended by the Local Authorities [Calculation of Council Tax Base] [Amendment] [England] Regulations 2003, the amounts

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calculated for individual parishes throughout Easington District are as follows:-

Castle Eden	298.0
Dalton le Dale	516.7
Easington Colliery	1,425.5
Easington Village	740.0
Haswell	558.7
Hawthorn	194.6
Horden	2,255.2
Hutton Henry	492.1
Monk Hesleden	1708.5
Murton	1,970.3
Nesbitt	3.3
Peterlee	5698.1
Seaham	5,564.1
Seaton with Slingley	419.7
Sheraton	52.4
Shotton	1,185.2
South Hetton	797.9
Thornley	685.4
Trimdon	396.0
Wheatley Hill	856.3
Wingate	1,179.1

- (d) pursuant to the report of the Head of Financial Management and in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Local Government Act 2003, The Council Tax [Prescribed Classes of Dwellings] [England] Regulations 2003 and The Local Authority (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2003, the discount in respect of second homes shall remain at 50% for the year 2008/2009;
- (e) pursuant to the report of the Head of Financial Management and in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Local Government Act 2003, The Council Tax [Prescribed Classes of Dwellings] [England] Regulations 2003 and The Local Authority (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2003, the discount in respect of long term empty properties shall remain at 50% for the year 2008/2009;
- (f) pursuant to the report of the Head of Financial Management and in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Local Government Act 2003, The Collection Fund (Council Tax Reductions) (England) Directions 2003 (Annex C) and The Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) (Amendment) Regulations 2003, the Council does not intend to introduce a locally defined discount for the year 2008/2009.

#### 4. **PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING RENEWAL: DELEGATION OF POWERS CONTAINED WITHIN THE HOUSING ACT 2004**

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Housing which gave details of new duties and powers contained within the Housing Act 2004, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The report also requested that the necessary powers to enforce these new regulations be delegated to the relevant Council Officers.

The Head of Housing reported that the main aim of the Act was to create a better housing market for all those who owned, rented or let residential property

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whilst protecting those most vulnerable residents from the effects of poor quality housing. It placed a duty on the Council to deal with poor housing conditions through a new range of enforcement powers and enabled the Council to make a reasonable charge as a means of recovering certain expenses for the service of statutory notices.

The key changes in legislation under the Act were set out in detail in the report for Members' consideration, together with details of charges for Notices served.

**RESOLVED** that

- (a) the implications of the Housing Act 2004 in relation to Private Sector Housing, as set out in the report, be noted;
- (b) the following delegation to the Director of Regeneration and Development and the Head of Housing, be agreed and the Constitution be amended accordingly:-

‘The power to take enforcement action and/or institute legal proceedings to discharge the Council’s duties under Part 1 of the Housing Act 2004’;

- (c) the proposals to charge for Notices served, be agreed.

### 5. TO SEAL DOCUMENTS

**RESOLVED** that the action taken in affixing the Common Seal to the following documents, be endorsed:-

19712	Conveyance made between EDC (1) and Lesley Wilson (2) relating to 48 Hawthorn Square, Seaham
19713	Release of Part of the Land from a Registered Charge in relation to Plot 69 High Croft, Thornley
19714	Release of Part of the Land from a Registered Charge in relation to Plot 99 High Croft, Thornley
19715	Release of Part of the Land from a Registered Charge in relation to Plot 46 High Croft, Thornley
19716	Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Steven Paul Hope and Susan Noble (2) relating to 19 Hawthorn Cottages, South Hetton
19717	Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and James Anderson (2) relating to 31 Lilac Crescent, Trimdon Station
19718	Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Fredrick Box (2) relating to 20 Market Crescent Wingate
19719	Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Dawn Benton and Peter Smith (2) relating to 47 Hawthorn Crescent, Horden
19720	Lease made between EDC (1) and DCC (2) relating to land and premises at Jack Lawson Terrace, Wheatley Hill
19721	Licence for Alterations made between The Trustees of the 2003/2004 Regent Capital Whitehouse Syndicate (1) District of Easington (2) and East Durham Homes Limited (3) relating to Meridian Court Two, comprising part of Site No. EP 3809/3 on Whitehouse Industrial Park,

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S.W. Industrial Estate Enterprise Zone, Peterlee (in triplicate)

- 19722      Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Robert Dove (2) relating to 41 Attlee Avenue, Blackhall Rocks
- 19723      Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC(1) and Patrick James Maher and Mrs. Iris Maher (2) relating to 4 Ramsey Close, Peterlee
- 19724      Agreement made between EDC (1) and Duckworth (Blackpool) Limited (2) relating to land at South Hetton Industrial Estate, South Hetton
- 19725      Transfer of part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Duckworth (Blackpool) Limited (2) relating to land at South Hetton Industrial Estate, South Hetton
- 19726      Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Donna Marie Taylor (2) relating to 222 The Avenue, Seaham
- 19727      Cancellation of Entries relating to a Registered Charge relating to 16 Stoker Crescent, Wheatley Hill
- 19728      Cancellation of Entries relating to a Registered Charge relating to 57 Short Grove, Murton
- 19729      Agreement made between EDC (1) and Greencycle PLC (2) relating to re-cycling services.