

Council

A meeting of Council was held on Wednesday, 5th March, 2008.

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Cllr Bill Noble), Cllr Hilary Aggio, Cllr Mrs Lynne Apedaile, Cllr Paul Baker, Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Mrs Jennie Beaumont, Cllr Phillip Broughton, Cllr Mrs Ann Cains, Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr Aidan Cockerill, Cllr David Coleman, Cllr Robert Cook, Cllr Mrs Eileen Craggs, Cllr Alex Cunningham, Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Mick Eddy, Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr John Fletcher, Cllr Mrs Suzanne Fletcher, Cllr Maurice Frankland, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Robert Gibson, Cllr David Harrington, Cllr Miss Barbara Inman, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Paul Kirton, Cllr Terry Laing, Cllr Miss Tina Large, Cllr Andrew Larkin, Cllr Colin Leckonby, Cllr Alan Lewis, Cllr Ken Lupton, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Mrs Kath Nelson, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Mrs Liz Nesbitt, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Mrs Maureen Rigg, Cllr Roy Rix, Cllr Julia Roberts, Cllr Fred Salt, Cllr Andrew Sherris, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr Mrs Allison Trainer, Cllr Steve Walmsley, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Mrs Mary Womphrey, Cllr Bill Woodhead and Cllr Barry Woodhouse.

Officers: G Garlick, H Dean (CE); D E Bond, P K Bell (LD); N Schneider (DNS); J Danks (R).

Also in attendance: 4 Members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr Jackie Earl, Cllr Lee Narroway, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Michael Smith and Cllr Michael Womphrey.

C Declarations of Interest

233/07

Agenda Item 27 - Cleveland Fire Authority - Minutes

Councillor Dixon declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 27 - Cleveland Fire Authority - Minutes as he was a Member of Cleveland Fire Authority.

Councillor Kirton declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 27 - Cleveland Fire Authority - Minutes as he was a Member of Cleveland Fire Authority.

Councillor Mrs O'Donnell declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 27 - Cleveland Fire Authority - Minutes as she was a Member of Cleveland Fire Authority.

Councillor Roberts declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 27 - Cleveland Fire Authority - Minutes as she was a Member of Cleveland Fire Authority.

Councillor Salt declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 27 - Cleveland Fire Authority - Minutes as he was a Member of Cleveland Fire Authority.

Councillor Stoker declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 27 - Cleveland Fire Authority - Minutes as he was a Member of Cleveland Fire Authority.

Councillor Woodhead declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 27 - Cleveland Fire Authority - Minutes as he was a Member of Cleveland Fire Authority.

Agenda Item 6 - Setting of Aggregate Council Tax 2008/09

Councillor Eddy declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 6 - Setting of Aggregate Council Tax 2008/09 - as he was a Member of Thornaby Town Council.

Councillor Mrs Trainer declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 6 - Setting of Aggregate Council Tax 2008/09 - as she was a Member of Thornaby Town Council.

Councillor Miss Large declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 6 - Setting of Aggregate Council Tax 2008/09 - as she was a Member of Thornaby Town Council.

Councillor Walmsley declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 6 - Setting of Aggregate Council Tax 2008/09 - as he was a Member of Thornaby Town Council.

Councillor Mrs Walmsley declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 6 - Setting of Aggregate Council Tax 2008/09 - as she was a Member of Thornaby Town Council.

Councillor Dalgarno declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 6 - Setting of Aggregate Council Tax 2008/09 - as he was a Member of Thornaby Town Council.

Councillor Mrs Craggs declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 6 - Setting of Aggregate Council Tax 2008/09 - as she was a Member of Thornaby Town Council.

Councillor Mrs Beaumont declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 6 - Setting of Aggregate Council Tax 2008/09 - as she was a Member of Kirklevington Parish Council.

Agenda Item 32 - Motion to Council on Chair of the North Tees and Hartlepool NHDS Foundation Trust

Councillor Mrs McCoy declared a personal, prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 32 - Motion to Council on Chair of the North Tees and Hartlepool NHDS Foundation Trust due to being a Member of the council of Governors for the North Tees and Hartlepool NHDS Foundation Trust. Councillor Mrs McCoy withdrew from the meeting when the Motion was considered.

Councillor Fletcher declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 32 - Motion to Council on Chair of the North Tees and Hartlepool NHDS Foundation Trust due to being a Member of the North Tees and Hartlepool NHDS Foundation Trust.

Agenda Item 10 - Cabinet Minutes - 11th February 2008

Councillor Laing declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 10 - Cabinet Minutes - Minute CAB 139/07 as he was a close

friend of an employee of Riverside leisure Ltd.

Councillor Nelson declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 10 - Cabinet Minutes - Minute CAB 123/07 as he served on the Board of Governors at Norton School and Frederick Natrass School and had a child at Blakeston School.

Councillor Mrs Nelson declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 10 - Cabinet Minutes - Minute CAB 123/07 as she served on the Board of Governors at Frederick Natrass School and had a child at Blakeston School.

Councillor Cook declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 10 - Cabinet Minutes - Minute CAB 123/07 as he served on the Board of Governors at Blakeston School.

Councillor Cunningham declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 10 CAB 123/07 as he was the Chair of the Board of Governors at High Clarence Primary School.

Agenda Item 17, 18, 19 - Housing and Community Safety Select Committee - Minutes of the meetings held on 13th December 2007, 20th December 2007 and 14th January 2008

Councillor Nelson declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of the Housing and Community Safety Select Committee minutes of the meetings held on 13th December 2007, 20th December 2007 and 14th January 2008 as he was a Member of Tristar Management Board.

Councillor Gibson declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of the Housing and Community Safety Select Committee minutes of the meetings held on 13th December 2007, 20th December 2007 and 14th January 2008 as he was a Member of Tristar Management Board.

Councillor Woodhead declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of the Housing and Community Safety Select Committee minutes of the meetings held on 13th December 2007, 20th December 2007 and 14th January 2008 as he was a Member of Tristar Management Board.

Councillor Roberts declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of the Housing and Community Safety Select Committee minutes of the meetings held on 13th December 2007, 20th December 2007 and 14th January 2008 as she was a Member of Tristar Management Board.

Councillor Mrs Trainer declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of the Housing and Community Safety Select Committee minutes of the meetings held on 13th December 2007, 20th December 2007 and 14th January 2008 as she was a Member of Tristar Management Board.

Councillor Miss Large declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of the Housing and Community Safety Select Committee minutes of the meetings held on 13th December 2007, 20th December 2007 and 14th January 2008 as

she was a Member of Tristar Management Board.

Agenda Item 21 - Planning Committee Minutes - 9th January 2008

Councillor Walmsley declared a personal, prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 21 - Planning Committee minutes - minute P 113/07 as he knew the applicant.

**C
234/07** **Public Question Time**

The following question was submitted by Eileen Johnson for response by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Transport:-

"Can the Cabinet Member please give details of how the Grangefield Councillors expended their small environmental improvement budget and what were the consultation exercises used?"

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Transport responded with:-

"The schemes that were identified and have been implemented in the Grangefield Ward are as follows:

- Installation of six dog waste bins at a cost of £2400.00
- Installation of three litter bins at a cost of £1200.00 total.
- Conversion of existing grass verge to hard paving outside numbers 28 -36 Oxbridge Avenue at a cost of £14,430.53.

On the above, project request forms were received, in accordance with the agreed protocol, for the first two items. This identified the need for more environmental bins from a petition received by Ward Councillors.

On the third item numerous requests, from the residents directly affected, had been received by Officers and Ward Councillors. All requests were referred onto the Ward Councillors who were advised that the use of SEIB may offer a solution. Following this, the Ward Councillors conformed verbally and by email that consultation had taken place with the properties affected who had originally complained. On this basis the works were costed, approved by the Ward Councillors and then programmed.

A Cabinet report on the Small Environmental Improvement Budget is scheduled to be taken to the April meeting. This will outline progress, feedback and lesson learnt from year 1 of the programme."

Eileen Johnson asked the following supplementary question:-

"Is there any evidence of any consultation that took place with ward residents about the block paving other than with the 6 residents that would benefit from having totally unnecessary expensive block paving installed to the front of their large properties with big drives?"

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Transport responded with:-

"I will ask the relevant officers what information is available."

C
235/07

Members' Question Time

The following question was submitted by Councillor Eddy for response by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People:-

"In view of the fact that the independent survey into the provided options for B.S.F in the south of the Borough clearly show that more than 80% of the replies were against Option A or had no opinion, and that of the 540 people who provided further comments not one commented in favour of a single academy involving St Patrick's School and Thornaby Community School why is Option A still being considered?"

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People responded with:-

"The message received from consultation was that the Catholic community in Thornaby wishes to retain Catholic education in the area. Partnerships for Schools, the government's BSF delivery agency, regards 750 students as the minimum size of secondary school to receive BSF funding. The Diocese of Middlesbrough has released figures that show 397 Catholic students attending St Patrick's School. If St Patrick's were to remain a separate school with at least 750 students, nearly 50% of those students would be non-Catholic. The option of a single academy for 1200 to 1400 students with separate Catholic and non-Catholic provision within shared facilities would allow distinctive Catholic education to continue in Thornaby."

The following question was submitted by Councillor Eddy for response by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People:-

"Councillor Cunningham will you please provide the Council with any information regarding the current views of the Diocese of Middlesbrough about Stockton's most recent B.S.F proposals involving St Patrick's R C Comprehensive School?"

"I have nothing further to my previous report to council. Contrary to what Councillor Eddy seems to think, he does not speak for the Diocese and I cannot accept that he does. A new Bishop took office on 25 January, and arrangements have been put in place to appoint a permanent Director of Schools within the next two months. In the meantime the Bishop has confirmed that he wishes the Acting Director of Schools and one Trustee of the diocese to continue to explore with Council officers all options for sustaining Catholic education provision within Thornaby."

Councillor Eddy asked the following supplementary question:-

"The Diocese of Middlesbrough would not accept an academy in Thornaby. They would not want to be part of any academy where they did not have complete control."

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People responded with:-

"I can not accept Councillor Eddy speaks on behalf of the Diocese. There is a new Bishop and a new Director of Schools. The Bishop has said that the Director can continue to act on his behalf".

The following question was submitted by Councillor Eddy for response by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People:-

"Is it true that one of the most (if not the most) successful initiatives in education in Thornaby – Thornaby Action Zone – is likely to end on the last day of this month despite the fact that funding is available until 2011?"

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People responded with:-

"It is not true this initiative will not continue in 2008-09 and beyond. Funding for Education Action Zones is now consolidated into the Dedicated Schools Grant (i.e. mainstream funding rather than specific grant). The schools involved will actually receive increased funding for EAZ activities because money previously retained by the Authority to cover central management and administration costs is being devolved to schools."

Councillor Eddy asked the following supplementary question:-

"Why has the Director been given redundancy notices?"

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People responded with:-

"Some employees have been given redundancy notices but the initiative will continue. There has been an increase in funding for 2008/09. The scheme has been redesigned and will offer better results".

The following question was submitted by Councillor Lewis for response by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Transport:-

"The fraudulent use of blue badges for disabled drivers is now a high priority but will the relevant cabinet member or members tell us what if anything is being done to encourage the owners of car parks at shopping parades, hypermarkets, supermarkets, fast food outlets etc. to enforce the proper use of bays marked for disabled parking?"

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Transport responded with:-

"Disabled bays that are marked within the car parks at shopping parades, hypermarkets, supermarkets, fast food outlets etc are generally privately owned and therefore at the discretion of the owners to enforce as they see necessary. As such the Council has no jurisdiction over such spaces.

Private owners cannot use the same legal powers as the Council to enforce parking controls on their land. To enable them to manage such abuse of disabled bays would require them to adopt different controls, such as clamping.

As the issue is becoming more common, some of the large supermarkets are now starting to take their own action in other areas of the Country.

As a result of Councillor Lewis' concerns officers will contact the leading supermarket sites in the Borough to ask what plans for better management of disabled bays, if any, they intend to employ. I will advise Councillor Lewis of the outcome of those enquiries."

The following question was submitted by Councillor Walmsley for response by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Transport:-

"Including proposed spending commitment, could the Cabinet Member tell members how much SBC has raised and spent on maintaining and securing the burned out shell of what was the Holy Trinity Church and improving the surrounding park (old churchyard) area?"

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Transport responded with:-

"Stockton Council have spent £64k from its own resource base out of a total spend of £937k (less than 10%)

The rest is:-

£35k Cleveland County Council
£10k SRB
£20k City Challenge
£50k Developer Contribution
£60k ERDF
£575k Cleaner Safer Greener Funding (NRF)*
£25k Neighbourhood Pathfinder
£100k English Heritage

* There was a technical adjustment to use SBC capital instead of the (NRF) safer cleaner greener money – that was simply a programme management issue to prevent losing that grant out of the area – we simply swapped the schemes around.

So the crux is that the majority of resource has been brought in by specific grants and geographically limited funding regimes – i.e if it hadn't been spent on holy trinity it doesn't follow it could have been spent anywhere else specifically. All monies that were spent on the holy trinity site went through consultation with residents and the Neighbourhood Pathfinder. We are trying to create a pocket park for an area that has a significant amount of terraced housing, many without gardens and very few green areas. This is also a well used venue for our award winning Stockton International Riverside Festival and other events it is also part of the southern gateway into the town centre. The majority of the monies had to be spent to make safe and stabilise the Grade 1 listed building, which was on the national at risk register.

The safer cleaner element we need to remember was specifically agreed and earmarked for holy trinity.

Of course we have spent over £300k on Thornaby Town Hall roof recently and the Linear Park in Mandale."

Councillor Walmsley asked the following supplementary question:-

"That is systematic of how this Council works. How can he draw comparison with other schemes?"

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Transport responded with:-

"I'm not sure you would be saying that if it was in Thornaby. The options were given and we had to refurbish it as English Heritage said that we could not demolish it. A lot of the money has gone into the grounds and I make no apologies for spending money in a deprived area."

The following question was submitted by Councillor Walmsley for response by the Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Health:-

"In January 2002, Cabinet agreed to the retention of Parkview Home. It was stated in the Cabinet report that subject to agreement of retention, the necessary costs of modernisation would be met within the departmental budget setting process 'as soon as possible'. Why wasn't this decision implemented 'as soon as possible?'"

The Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Health responded with:-

"I know you have asked this question several times and received the answer so I am glad to have the opportunity to give you the answer again and there will be a record for you to refer to should you need it again.

In 2002 Cabinet agreed to the retention of Parkview Home and to bring it up to the National Minimum Standards required by the Commission of Social Care Inspection for registration as a Care Home.

These standards were revised in 2003 following national concerns about the cost for local authorities and existing care home providers. All new build homes, extensions and new registrations were required to meet the standards for minimum floor space and en-suite facilities. Pre-existing care homes were able to continue from August 2002 with their current arrangements. Also in 2002/03 there was a significant change in policy direction for services for older people which was agreed by Council. There was, and is now, an increased emphasis on maintaining people in their own homes and the range and availability of community based services.

Additional resources were invested in community based services and we have seen a 23% growth in the number of households receiving domiciliary care services.

I would also refer you to your previous question at Council regarding what categories that we provide services to and you will remember that I said only Stockton and Darlington provide services to 3 of the 4 categories and only

Sunderland in the whole country offer services in all 4 categories. It would be great to have the resources to offer all services in all 4 categories."

Councillor Walmsley asked the following supplementary question:-

"If Cabinet agreed in 2002 to modernise Parkview as soon as possible, who's decision was it not to modernise as soon as possible and is there any record of who made that decision and who was consulted?"

The Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Health responded with:-

"This authority made a decision to change direction. It will be in the budget and was a Council decision."

The following question was submitted by Councillor Fletcher for response by the Council's nominated representative on Cleveland Police Authority Councillor Kirton:-

"In view of his answer to my supplementary question to him on 23rd January 2008 recorded at Minute C184/07 on page 725, will the Council's nominated representative on the Cleveland Police Authority please state what response, if any, he received from the officers of the Cleveland Police Authority?"

The Council's nominated representative on Cleveland Police Authority Councillor Kirton responded with:-

"The minutes referred too, were specifically, comments from the Audit Commission's Report to the Police Authority. These minutes, as referred to by Cllr Fletcher, concluded with " The Auditors proposed issuing an unqualified conclusion on the use of resources", which shows unequivocally that the police authority's business in these areas, is sound and accurately recorded."

It was agreed that a further written response from Councillor Kirton be sent to Councillor Fletcher.

C
236/07 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2008 (Minutes C 181/07 - C 229/07) were signed by the worshipful the Mayor as a correct record.

C
237/07 **Setting of Aggregate Council Tax 2008/09**

In order to record this decision adequately it was necessary to include lengthy tables of information. Inclusion of such tables currently causes format problems within the e-genda system and because of this it is not possible to reproduce this decision/ minute on e genda in the usual way.

However a word version of the minutes of the meeting is attached or is available by contacting Democratic Services.

C
238/07 **Adult Services & Health Select Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Mrs Cains, seconded by Councillor Gardner and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Adult Services and Health Select Committee held on 18th December 2007 (Minutes ASH 51/07 - ASH 59/07) be noted.

C
239/07 **Arts Leisure & Culture Select Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Mrs O'Donnell, seconded by Councillor Sherris and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Arts, Leisure and Culture Select Committee held on 9th January 2008 (Minutes ALC 31/07 - ALC 35/07) be confirmed.

C
240/07 **Audit Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Woodhouse and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Audit Committee held on 25th February 2008 (Minutes A 35/07 - A 43/07) be received.

C
241/07 **Cabinet Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Lupton, seconded by Councillor Mrs Beaumont and RESOLVED that the minutes of Cabinet held on 11th February 2008 (Minutes CAB 122/07 - CAB 123/07) be confirmed or received as appropriate.

C
242/07 **Children & Young People Select Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Harrington, seconded by Councillor Eddy and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Children and Young People Select Committee held on 19th December 2007 (Minutes CYP 30/07 - CYP 34/07) be confirmed.

C
243/07 **Children & Young People Select Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Harrington, seconded by Councillor Eddy and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Children and Young People Select Committee held on 30th January 2008 (Minutes CYP 35/07 - CYP 38/07) be confirmed.

C
244/07 **Employee Appeals Panel Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Rix, seconded by Councillor Mrs Nelson and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Employee Appeal Panel held on 16th January 2008 (Minutes EAP 13/07 - EAP 15/07) be received.

C
245/07 **Environment Select Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Mrs Rigg, seconded by Councillor Mrs Fletcher and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment Select Committee held on 14th January 2008 (Minutes ENV 33/07 - ENV 37/07) be confirmed.

C
246/07 **Executive Scrutiny Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Gibson, seconded by Councillor Lupton and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Executive Scrutiny Committee held on 15th January

2008 (Minutes EXC 56/07 - EXC 63/07) be received.

C **Executive Scrutiny Committee Minutes**

247/07

Moved by Councillor Gibson, seconded by Councillor Lupton and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Executive Scrutiny Committee held on 5th February 2008 (Minutes EXC 64/07 - EXC 70/07) be received.

C **Housing & Community Safety Select Committee Minutes**

248/07

Moved by Councillor Mrs Trainer, seconded by Councillor Roberts and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Housing and Community Safety Select Committee held on 13th December 2007 (Minutes HCS 29/07 - HCS 32/07) be confirmed.

C **Housing & Community Safety Select Committee Minutes**

249/07

Moved by Councillor Mrs Trainer, seconded by Councillor Roberts and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Housing and Community Safety Select Committee held on 20th December 2007 (Minutes HCS 33/07 - HCS 34/07) be confirmed.

C **Housing & Community Safety Select Committee Minutes**

250/07

Moved by Councillor Mrs Trainer, seconded by Councillor Roberts and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Housing and Community Safety Select Committee held on 14th January 2008 (Minutes HCS 35/07 - HCS 36/07) be confirmed.

C **Licensing Committee Minutes**

251/07

Moved by Councillor Woodhead, seconded by Councillor Mrs Nelson and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Committee held on 22nd January 2008 (Minutes L 50/07 - L 61/07) be received.

C **Planning Committee Minutes**

252/07

Moved by Councillor Rix, seconded by Councillor Patterson and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 9th January 2008 (Minutes P 110/07 - P 117/07) be received.

C **Planning Committee Minutes**

253/07

Moved by Councillor Rix, seconded by Councillor Patterson and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 30th January 2008 (Minutes P 118/07 - P 128/07) be received.

C **Regeneration & Transport Select Committee Minutes**

254/07

Moved by Councillor Cains, seconded by Councillor Kirton and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Regeneration and Transport Select Committee held on 14th January 2008 (Minutes RTS 44/07 - RTS 46/07) be confirmed.

C
255/07 **Regeneration & Transport Select Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Cains, seconded by Councillor Kirton and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Regeneration and Transport Select Committee held on 21st January 2008 (Minutes RTS 47/07 - RTS 49/07) be confirmed.

C
256/07 **Regeneration & Transport Select Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Cains, seconded by Councillor Kirton and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Regeneration and Transport Select Committee held on 5th February 2008 (Minutes RTS 50/07 - RTS 60/07) be confirmed.

C
257/07 **Standards Committee Minutes**

Moved by Mr F W Hayes, seconded by Councillor Sherris and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Standards Committee held on 24th January 2008 (Minutes S 84/07 - S 96/07) be received.

C
258/07 **Cleveland Fire Authority Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Cleveland Fire Authority held on 30th November 2007 were noted.

C
259/07 **Markets Forum Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Markets Forum held on 12th December 2007 were noted.

C
260/07 **Members Advisory Panel-New Constitution Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Members Advisory Panel held on 17th December 2007 were noted.

C
261/07 **Safer Stockton Partnership Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Safer Stockton Partnership held on 4th December 2007 were noted.

C
262/07 **Annual Council**

At Min C14/07 (Annual Council-23rd May 2007) the dates of all Council meetings for the Municipal Year 2007/8 were agreed. The date of the Annual Meeting for 2008/9 was incorrectly recorded as Thursday 3rd April 2008; when infact it should have read 'Wednesday, 2nd April 2008 at 11.00am'.

RESOLVED that Min C14/07 be corrected and the date of Annual Council be agreed as Wednesday, 2nd April 2008 at 11.00am.

C
263/07 **Motion - Post Office**

The following motion was moved by Councillor Mrs Fletcher and seconded by Councillor Lewis:-

"This council objects to the proposed closure of sub-post offices throughout Stockton Borough;

The people in the Borough of Stockton on Tees value the role of the local Post Office and do not wish to see the closure of any more Post Offices in the area.

Council resolves:-

1. To oppose the Post Office closure programme and respond to the consultation accordingly.
2. To contact local MPs and ask for their support in this matter and to elicit their views on the network change programme."

The motion was carried.

C
264/07 **Motion - North Tees and Hartlepool NHDS Foundation Trust**

Council agreed that Procedure Rule 12.1 be suspended.

The following motion was moved by Councillor Gibson and seconded by Councillor Coleman:-

"That Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council condemns in the strongest terms the award of an increase of 150% to the Chair of the North Tees and Hartlepool NHDS Foundation Trust.

Board members will also receive an increase from £6,000 to £11,000, an increase of almost 100%.

These increases come at a time when health and other public sector workers are being restricted to a norm of 1.9%.

We ask the Council to:

Write to the Secretary of State condemning this unjustifiable increase.

Ask him for an enquiry into the procedures adopted to carry out this process.

Ask that the health scrutiny committees of Stockton Borough Council and Hartlepool Borough Council jointly carry out an urgent scrutiny review."

The motion was carried.