

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE HELD ON 6TH MARCH, 2018

Present: Councillor Mrs B E Allen, (Chair), R Arthur, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, S P Colborn, S Cudlip, D Cummings, Mrs V Cummings, Ms R M Gratton, G N Hepworth, Mrs L Kennedy, D McKenna, K Shaw, T Shepherd, B Taylor.

Observer: Mrs G Bleasdale.

Apologies: Councillors Mrs K Brace, Mrs S Forster, Mrs S Pratt.

Prior to commencement of the meeting the Chair advised members of this Committee and members of the public that in line with the amendment to 'the public bodies (admission to meetings) act 1960', which came into force in August, 2014, parts of this meeting may be recorded by photographic, video and audio means.

1. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded prior to the start of the meeting of the need to disclose any interests, prejudicial or personal, in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

Councillor Mrs G Bleasdale declared an interest and took no further part in the voting thereon.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6th FEBRUARY, 2018

RECOMMENDED the Minutes of these meetings, copies of which had been previously printed and circulated to each Member, be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

3. PLANNING ISSUES

a) Monthly List

RECOMMENDED the list of planning applications referred to all Councillors since the last meeting, namely 5516 to 5517 as circulated be noted.

4. TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS ISSUES

a) Neighbourhood Services – Highways

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

5. TRAFFIC PROBLEMS IN SEAHAM

A Member stated that the member of the public who had written into the Town Council complaining about the traffic on Stockton Road had contacted Seaham Community Party last year about the issue of speeding and running red lights. The Member noted that everything the member of public has stated is also a problem on Station Road every day. Emails were sent to Durham County Council and the Police and a 7 day survey was carried out. Following the survey the results were given as the traffic was not a problem even though they had witnessed cars travelling at 70-80 mph.

A Member suggested that it may be useful to invite Mr Ron Hogg to the next available meeting to discuss the concerns further. A Member also suggested inviting an Officer from Durham County Council's Highways Department along to the meeting.

A Member noted that with the extra housing that it proposed to be built in Seaham a full assessment needs to be carried out throughout the town and this should be requested as a priority.

RECOMMENDED that a Special Planning and Environmental Committee is arranged and that Mr Ron Hogg and an Officer from Durham County Councils Highways Department are invited to discuss this matter further with Councillors.

6. BLUE BARRIER REMOVAL AT CHURCH STREET

A Member noted that the bottom of Church Street needed to be cleaned up as there was mud everywhere.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk email Durham County Council to complain about the mess at the bottom of Church Street.

7. REMOVAL OF STREET LIGHTING AT GEORGE ELMY LIFEBOAT WAY & EAST CLIFF ROAD

The Deputy Town Clerk updated Members with regards to the faulty street lighting due to the recent adverse weather conditions. A correspondence has been received from Kevin Robson informing of the additional costs to the prior costings received if Members want to go ahead with the SLA.

A Member suggested that Councillors should look at the SLA which is at a cost of £4,500 per year over 10 years. He noted if the street lighting is removed it may never be put back. A Member stated that he had thought the posts would remain and the electricity supply would be disconnected but has since been informed that everything would be removed. Members have previously discussed the footfall around that area and felt it would be unsafe to remove the lights.

RECOMMENDED that Members approve the SLA from Durham County Council.

8. **PRESS OPPORTUNITIES**

RECOMMENDED that there were no press opportunities following this meeting.