

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18th SEPTEMBER, 2018

Present: The Mayor, Councillor Mrs B E Allen (Presiding) and Councillors R Arthur, E Bell, Mrs G Bleasdale, Mrs K Brace, S P Colborn, Mrs S Forster, Ms R M Gratton, G N Hepworth, D McKenna, K Shaw, T Shepherd, B Taylor, Miss L Willis.

Apologies: Councillors, S Cudlip, D Cummings, Mrs V Cummings, Mrs L Kennedy, 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.

2. OPEN SESSION

In accordance with established policy the Council provided the opportunity at the beginning of the meeting for a 15 minute session.

A Member of Fishbone Allotments Association stated that he had received a new lease document and felt that no consultation had taken place with regards to the new lease and there were several points which he wished to raise. He stated that he had telephoned the offices to which he had been told that no one wanted to make any changes to the leases. He noted that there were several points which the Association were not happy with and wanted to discuss these issues outside of this meeting. It was agreed that the Association would be invited to the next meeting of the Allotment Sub-Committee to discuss this matter further.

A Member of the Royal British Legion stated that the RBL would like financial assistance towards the cost of the Band for the November Remembrance Parade which they had also requested last year and had received. The RBL apologised for the lateness of the request but stated that they could not make the request earlier as the RBL were in administration and this was beyond their control. A County Councillor stated that he had previously requested that the RBL make a request in writing to the County Councillors for a donation from the Neighbourhood Budgets but had not heard anything from them. The member of the RBL stated that he couldn't apply due to the administration of the RBL as he wasn't able to bank any money. The member of the RBL also stated that according to the Royal British

Legion Charter it is the responsibility of the Local Authority to pay for the Remembrance Service. A Member stated that they had not heard of this before and the Acting Town Clerk should look into his matter further to establish the facts so that the Town Council are correct in what they are doing

The member of the RBL stated that they had very little funds and the only income they receive at the Branch is the monthly subs from members. The member stated that he had only heard last year from the Chairman of the RBL that it was the Local Authorities responsibility to pay for the parade. A Member stated that he was not disputing this fact and noted that the RBL raise thousands of pounds each year from the Poppy Appeal but as a branch the RBL don't have any money. The member of the RBL stated that the Poppy Appeal is not related to the branch and the branch have no control over this and the only income is from branch members.

A Member stated that the Acting Town Clerk and County Councillor will meet with the RBL to discuss the parade to ensure that it runs smoothly as it is the 100 year anniversary. The member of the RBL stated that this year the parade will form on North Terrace so there is a full march around the Terrace Green so people are able to see the march in full. He noted that lots of things needed to be improved upon regarding the parade but the overall responsibility and public safety is the Local Authorities.

A Member questioned how fast the AAP can pay the money for the band to the RBL. A County Councillor noted it depended on how fast the application could be made and when he receives it. The County Councillor noted that this is a County Council issue not a Town Council issue.

A Member stated that the Town Council paid for the band last year and asked if it would be quicker if Seaham Town Council paid rather than applying to the AAP. The Acting Town Clerk stated that he would speak directly to the AAP to investigate this and then feedback this information to Members.

A Member noted that for future years this would have to be done the right way as it may have been carried out incorrectly for years.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Fishbone Allotment Association be invited to the next Allotment Sub-Committee meeting to discuss the terms of the new lease.
- (ii) The Acting Town Clerk to speak to the AAP with regards to funding of the November Remembrance Day Parade.

3. TO CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 10th JULY, 2018

RESOLVED the Minutes of this meeting, a copy of which had been previously printed and circulated to each Member, be approved, and they be signed as a correct record by the Mayor.

4. REPORTS OF SERVICE COMMITTEES

RESOLVED that the reports of the following Committees, copies of which had been previously printed and circulated to each Member, be approved:

- a) Report of the Special Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 23rd July, 2018 subject to page 9643 a Member questioning whether a report had been given to Members with regards to the World Cup screening at Terrace Green. It was clarified that Members had been furnished with this report and it had been approved.
- b) Report of the Special Planning and Environmental Committee held on 7th August, 2018.
- c) Report of the Arts and Information Committee held on 28th August, 2018 subject to a Member questioning why defibrillators were discussed at the Arts and Information meeting as well as the Parks and Events meeting. It was noted that the item was discussed on Arts and Information via the Destination Seaham minutes which were for information only and it was also an agenda item on the Parks and Events report to approve the generous donation from County Councillors to have a defibrillator placed at the Town Hall. A Member states that a recommendation was made for a professional to inform the Town Council where defibrillators should be placed around the town. A Member stated that he had recommended this as the professionals would have better knowledge of where they should be placed around the town. The Acting Town Clerk stated he had contacted the Ambulance Service to request this but was still waiting to hear back from them.
- d) Report of the Parks and Events Committee held on 28th August, 2018 subject to a Member stating that there were a few incorrect comments made on page 9648 and 9649 regarding the Tommy Safe and requested that this item be further discussed at the next Parks and Events Committee meeting. It was also noted that page 9653 was missing from the Minute Book. It was agreed that this would be brought to the next available meeting.
- e) Report of Planning and Environmental Committee held on 4th September, 2018, subject to page 9659 item 5 the minutes state a Member had a meeting with a Strategic Officer. This should be changed to County Councillor Kevin Shaw, Portfolio Holder for Strategic Housing had a meeting with a Strategic Officer.
- f) Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 4th September, 2018, subject to page 9666 item 6c. The item should be Members voting against the full grant being awarded Councillor Mrs S Forster should be named and the number changed from 6 Members to 7 Members. Also to be added to the minutes is following an incorrect vote a further vote took place and at this point it was requested to be a named vote. A Member suggested that a named vote should be taken for every vote so mistakes don't happen in future. A Member stated that every vote should be taken independently.

Also subject to page 9667 item 7 a Member stated that the Chairman of the meeting stated that there had been leaflets distributed in Seaton Lane about the cost of the Mayors Ball. The Member stated the leaflets were not distributed in Seaton Lane and they are being looked into by Seaham Community Party. It was stated that the Civic Ball costs £20k but it doesn't say that in the leaflets. The leaflet states the Civic Ball along with other things that Seaham Community Party want to look into such as expenditure on taxis etc they want to investigate. It has never been stated in any leaflets. The Member stated that the Chairman demanded an apology and as far as he is concerned he will not receive an apology from him. The Chairman is not at this meeting tonight but should be to stand up for his actions in saying that the Seaham Community Party stated the Civic Ball cost £20k when they did not say this and it is not stated on the leaflet. A Member questioned whether this was the leaflet that no one admitted to distributing. A Member stated that he had said he had distributed some in Denehouse Road at the meeting. The chairman stated they had been distributed in Seaton Lane and knew this to be wrong straight away. There is nothing on the leaflets that states the Mayors Ball costs £20k so it is wrong to bring that up. A Member had backed the Chairman up at the meeting and he was asked why he did. The Member stated he backed the Chairman up because the leaflet stated that Civic costs were £20k. A Member stated the Chairman stated the Civic Ball. A Member questioned whether it was in the leaflet that £20k was mentioned. A Member stated not for the Civic Ball. A Member stated he said Civic costs. Members stated that the Chairman stated at the meeting the Civic Ball and he hadn't even seen the leaflet. A Member asked if Seaham Community Party had a copy of the leaflet with them today. It was noted that they didn't. A Member of Seaham Community Party stated that they had looked at the leaflet and it was a collective of civic costs not just the Ball and the Party would look into this and it has never been said that the Mayors Ball costs £20k and there will be no apology. A Member stated that as the Mayor last year the Ball cost £2,252.29. A Member stated the point that is being made is the accusations being made to Seaham Community Party are wrong and the Chairman shouldn't have made these without looking at the leaflet first. A Member stated that the Chairman had stated the leaflets were distributed up Seaton Lane when they weren't. A Member requested a point of order and stated that as in the minutes this will be raised at the next Finance and General Purposes meeting and the Full Council minutes are being reflected on as a point of accuracy. There are also other issues within the leaflet which a Member wants to address as the Chairman of the Dawdon Park Working Committee.

- g)** Report of the Clerks Advisory Sub-Committee held on 4th September, 2018 subject to a Member stating for accuracy of the minutes and in conjunction with the Chair that he raised at this meeting that there are two outstanding complaints which will be brought to the next Establishment Sub-Committee meeting.