

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE HELD ON 30TH OCTOBER, 2018

Present: Councillor Mrs L Kennedy (Chair) R Arthur, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, S P Colborn, S Cudlip, Mrs S Forster, G N Hepworth, B Taylor, R Whitehead.

Apologies: Councillors Mrs B E Allen, Mrs K Brace, D Cummings, Mrs V Cummings, Ms R M Gratton, D McKenna, Mrs S Pratt, K Shaw, Miss L Willis.

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. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2nd OCTOBER, 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 5561 to 5565 as circulated be noted.

4. TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS ISSUES

a) Neighbourhood Services – Highways

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

5. LAND QUALITY INSPECTIONS PROGRAMME – DAWDON COLLIERY INCLUDING BLAST BEACH

A County Councillor stated that she had been liaising with Durham County Council about what signage should be placed around the pools near the Blast Beach. Another Member questioned whether anything was to be done about actually dealing with the problem as the acidity of the pools could be harmful to people's health and the pools should be fenced off. It was noted that there would just be warning signage.

A Member requested that the Town Clerk responds to Durham County Council on Seaham Town Councils behalf to seek further clarification.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk responds to Durham County Council on Seaham Town Councils behalf to seek further clarification.

6. PROPOSED REMOVAL OF STREET LIGHTING

a) Roselea, Stockton Road

It was noted that Durham County Council had been contacted by Officers to see if they had received any views from the private owner of this property regarding the removal of the street light from their garden and to date they had not heard from the owners.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk contacts the owners of Roselea for their views on the removal of the street light from their garden.

b) Footpath Adjoining Enfield Road, Midway Between Northlea and Deneside

A County Councillor stated that he was waiting to speak to Officers at Durham County Council with regards to the removal of these lights. He stated that he will mention that a housing development is planned for this area in the near future and he will ask them to hold off removing the lights for now.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

c) George Elmy Lifeboat Way

A Member stated that replacing the street lights with LED is not fit for purpose and the County Council are seriously putting people's lives at risk. Another Member noted that it's not just this area it's everywhere across the country.

Following the Budget Sub-Committee the Town Clerk stated that there needs to be some Terms of Reference from Durham County regarding the Town Council taking over the street lighting at this location and what the Town Council would be expected to pay in cases of repair and renewals.

It was noted that Durham County Council still want £35k up front for the street lighting contract. A Member stated that it was agreed the Town Council would subsidise the street lights in yearly instalments and if the County Council still insist on the £35k up front then Members will need to hold further discussions.

A Member stated that he agreed with a fellow Members comments in the Budget Sub-Committee that Seaham will be paying for the same service twice through rates and taxes. Another Member stated that the Town Council agreed to pay for the lights as if the Town Council don't pay Durham County Council will remove the lights altogether.

A Member noted that the money has been identified to pay the £35k if this needs to happen.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk liaises with Durham County Council and to discuss further the outcomes.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

a) Pollution of Coastal Waters

Members discussed the information received from Mr Latimer and agreed that a letter of appreciation for him keeping the Town Council updated should be sent to him.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk writes to Mr Latimer to thank him for his continued updates to the Town Council.

8. PRESS OPPORTUNITIES

RECOMMENDED that there were no press opportunities from this meeting.