

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 10TH MAY, 2019

Present: Councillor Mrs B E Allen (Presiding), and Councillors R Arthur, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, Mrs G Bleasdale, Mrs K Brace, S P Colborn, S Cudlip, D Cummings, Mrs V Cummings, Ms R M Gratton, G N Hepworth, Mrs L Kennedy, D McKenna, K Shaw, B Taylor, R Whitehead, Miss L Willis.

Apologies: Mrs S Pratt, T Shepherd.

Officer: Mrs Dianne Rickaby (Town Clerk)

Prior to commencement of the meeting the Chair advised members of the Council 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.

At this point of the meeting, Councillor Kevin Shaw stated that he refused to recognise the Chair and that he would take no further part in the meeting until this matter was resolved. and therefore, left the meeting at 7.20pm.

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. ELECTION OF MAYOR OF SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

A named vote was requested by Members for the election of Mayor for 2019/20. Two nominations were put forward for the role of Mayor.

Councillor Leanne Kennedy proposed by Cllr Sonia Foster, seconded by Councillor Stan Cudlip.

And Councillor Linda Willis proposed by Cllr Barry Taylor and seconded by Cllr Steve Colborn.

Members were asked to vote with a show of hands and the votes were counted.

Councillor Mrs Leanne Kennedy;

Votes from Councillors D McKenna, Mrs S Forster, R Whitehead, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, Mrs G Bleasdale, S Cudlip, and Mrs L Kennedy. Resulting in 8 votes.

Councillor Miss Linda Willis;

Votes from Councillors Mrs B E Allen, Ms R Gratton, G N Hepworth, R Arthur, Miss L Willis, Mrs K Brace, S P Colborn, Mrs V Cummings, D Cummings, B Taylor. Resulting in 10 votes.

Therefore Councillor Miss Linda Willis was duly elected as Mayor to Seaham Town Council for the ensuing year of 2019/20.

3. SIGNING OF THE DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY THE NEWLY ELECTED MAYOR AND HANDOVER OF CHAINS OF OFFICE TO NEW MAYOR AND CONSORT

Councillor Miss Linda Willis signed the declaration of office in the presence of the Proper Officer, Dianne Rickaby who countersigned the declaration.

4. NEW MAYOR'S ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

The new Mayor thanked all that voted for her and expressed that after serving a year as Deputy Mayor she feels that she has a good grasp on what is required within her mayoral year.

Councillor Miss Willis thanked the retiring Mayor Councillor Mrs B E Allen for all of her hard work and commitment to the people of Seaham for all of the monies she raised for the 12 good causes within the town.

5. PRESENTATION OF GIFT TO RETIRING MAYOR AND CONSORT

The new Mayor presented the retiring Mayor with a thankyou gift from all at Seaham Town Council. Her consort was presented with a gift that the retiring Mayor had purchased herself and presented to her consort Mr Brian Allen.

Cllr Barbara Allen thanked all that helped her through her mayoral year and presented the staff with gifts.

6. TO ELECT THE DEPUTY MAYOR OF SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

A named vote was requested for the election of Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year of office 2019/20.

Nominations for Deputy Mayor are as follows:

Councillor Barry Taylor – proposed by Councillor S P Colborn and seconded by Councillor R Arthur.

Councillor Dave McKenna – proposed by Councillor S Cudlip and seconded by Councillor Mrs Leanne Kennedy.

Votes for Councillor Barry Taylor as follows:

Miss R Gratton, G N Hepworth, Mrs B E Allen, Mrs K Brace, S P Colborn, Mrs V Cummings, D Cummings, Miss L Willis, B Taylor, R Arthur. Resulting in 10 votes.

Votes for Councillor Dave McKenna as follows:

Councillors D McKenna, Mrs S Forster, Mrs G Bleasdale, R Whitehead, S Cudlip, Mrs L Kennedy, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell. Resulting in 8 votes.

Therefore Councillor B Taylor was duly elected as Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year of office 2019/20.

7. HANDOVER OF CHAIN OF OFFICE TO NEW DEPUTY MAYOR

The new Deputy Mayor was presented with the Chain of Office.

8. GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

To approve that the Town Council meets the criteria to use the above power.

The Town Clerk explained that in order for the Council to utilise the General Power of Competence which allows the Council to do anything that an individual can do within the parameters of law, then it must be proven at every AGM that they meet the essential criteria. The criteria being that the Council is two thirds elected and that the Town Clerk is a qualified Clerk.

As the Council meets the criteria the Council is advised to approve the power for use in future services.

RESOLVED the Council approve that the Council meets all the appropriate criteria to utilise the General Power of Competence.

9. MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 23rd APRIL, 2019

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

10. MINUTES OF SERVICE COMMITTEES

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

- a) Minutes of Arts and Information Committee held on 30th April, 2019;
- b) Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 30th April, 2019;
- c) Minutes of the Planning & Environmental Committee held on 30th April, 2019;
- d) Minutes of Parks and Events Committee held on 30th April, 2019;
- c) Minutes of the Special Parks and Events Committee held on 10th May, 2019.

11. ELECTION OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

To look at reforming/reviewing the Committee structure and appointing to the Committees and Sub-Committees for the ensuing year.

- a) Arts and Information Committee
- b) Parks and Events Committee
- c) Finance and General Purposes Committee
- d) Planning and Environmental Committee
- e) Twinning Committee
- f) Establishment Sub-Committee
- g) Clerks Advisory Sub-Committee
- h) Allotments Sub-Committee
- i) Staff Disciplinary Sub-Committee
- j) Computer Sub-Committee
- k) Joint Staff Consultative Committee
- l) Mayors Advisory Sub-Committee
- m) Budget Sub-Committee
- n) Town Hall Working Party
- o) Dawdon Park Working Party

It was agreed that the Committees will be reviewed and the Town Clerk to look at proposals to streamline the Committees and bring back to Full Council.

12. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON OUTSIDE BODIES

To appoint Members to serve as Council representatives on outside bodies for the ensuing year.

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| a) Seaham Cadet Air Training Corps - | D McKenna |
| b) East Durham Heritage Coast Partnership - | R Arthur |
| c) Coastliners - | B Taylor |
| d) NAC | No representative |
| e) East Durham Area Action Partnership Forum - | B Taylor |
| f) Seaham & District Scouts Association - | D McKenna |
| g) Community Health Network - | Mrs L Kennedy |
| h) County Durham Local Access Forum - | R Arthur |
| i) Destination Seaham - | Mrs L Kennedy |
| j) Seaham Marina - | K Shaw |
| k) Heritage Townscape Project | ?Cllr Sonia Foster |
| l) NALC | Mrs L Kennedy |

Agreed all of the above stay the same unless notifying the Town Clerk of any changes.

To resolve that, in respect of any of the aforementioned appointments involving attendance outside of the town's boundaries, attendance by the Member(s) concerned should rank as an approved duty for payment of allowances.