

## **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18TH JUNE, 2014**

Present: Councillor B Burn Snr (Presiding), and  
Councillors B Allen, Mrs B E Allen,  
Mrs M Baird, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell,  
Mrs G Bleasdale, B Burn Jnr, S Cudlip,  
Mrs S Forster, R Meir, K Shaw,  
C Snowball, R Whitehead, K Younger

Apologies: Councillors Mrs H Cahill, I Paul

Observer: Mr B Taylor

### **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 a fifteen minute opportunity for any members of the public to raise questions. During this period no issues were raised.

### **3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 16TH MAY, 2014**

RESOLVED the Minutes of this meeting, a copy of which had been previously printed and circulated to each Member, be approved subject to the inclusion of Councillor Younger's apologies, and the inclusion on the Appointments to Outside Bodies list of Councillor Mrs Baird to represent the Town Council on Seaham Harbour Marina, and that 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, subject to the inclusion of Councillor Mrs Forster's apologies on the Finance and General Purposes, Planning and Environmental and Twinning Committees held on 3rd June, 2014:-

- a) Report of Arts and Information Committee held on 20th May, 2014;
- b) Report of Town Promotion and Development Committee held on 20th May, 2014;
- b) Report of Parks and Events Committee held on 20th May, 2014;
- c) Report of the Clerk's Advisory Sub-Committee held on 29th May, 2014;
- d) Report of the Establishment Sub-Committee held on 29th May, 2014

- e) Report of Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 3rd June, 2014, and
- f) Report of Planning and Environmental Committee held on 3rd June, 2014.
- g) Report of the Twinning Committee held on 3rd June, 2014.

## **5. CONFERENCES, COURSES AND SEMINARS**

The Council considered details of the National Association of Councillors' Training and Development Seminar entitled 'Managing Community Buildings and Assets' to take place in Lytham St Annes on 27th to 29th June, 2014. The event was offered on a 3 for 2 price basis.

RESOLVED:

- (i) The Council be represented at the NAC Training and Development Seminar to be held in Lytham St Annes on 27th to 29th June, 2014.
- (ii) The NAC standing representative, namely Councillor E Bell, together with the next three Members on the overnight rota, be appointed to attend, and such attendance rank as an approved duty for payment of appropriate allowances.

## **6. WW1 SOLDIER SCULPTURE**

The Council considered the situation with regard to the WW1 Soldier Sculpture currently sited on the Terrace Green and a discussion took place on the efforts being made by the community to retain this piece of art within Seaham.

RESOLVED that the Council approve a payment of £20,000 from its Reserves as a deposit to the Sculptor; this amount to be refunded in full to the Town Council at a future date.

## **7. ANNUAL RETURN – FINANCIAL YEAR 2013/14**

The Committee was advised that under the Limited Assurance Audit Regime the Council's statutory accounts be produced in the form of an Annual Return which must be approved prior to the end of the month of June following the financial year to which it relates. The Committee considered a copy of the completed Annual Return which reflects the information contained in the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 31st March 2014 (Not subject to Audit). Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return which reflects the information contained in the Financial Statements were considered for official approval and signing.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Council formally approve Section 1, Accounting Statements for Seaham Town Council, of the Annual Return for the financial year ended 31st March 2014.

- (ii) That the Council formally approve Section 2, Annual Governance Statement, of the Annual Return for the financial year ended 31st March 2014.

**8. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RECOMMENDED in view of the confidential nature of the following item, the formal resolution be hereby passed to exclude the press and public from the meeting pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act, 1961.

**9. SEAHAM TOWN HALL**

The Town Council's Architect, Mr John Elves, provided an update with regard to the current situation concerning the new Town Hall and elaborated on the options available to Seaham Town Council to speed up the completion date.

RESOLVED the Council approve the recommendation provided by the Architect to progress the completion and handover.