

**MINUTES OF THE ARTS AND INFORMATION COMMITTEE HELD ON 4TH
FEBRUARY, 2014**

Present: Councillor C Snowball (Chair) and
Councillors R Arthur, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell,
Mrs G Bleasdale, B Burn Snr, B Burn Jnr,
S Cudlip, Mrs S Forster, Miss S Morrison,
N R Page, I Paul, K Shaw, G A Shepherd,
R Whitehead, K Younger

Apologies: Councillors B Allen, Mrs B E Allen,
Mrs H Cahill

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. EAST DURHAM CREATES

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Ms Ashley Bell, Programme Support for East Durham Creates, who was present to address Members on their work.

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that this was the beginning of a 2½ year project where artists were being brought together with a variety of local community groups, schools and individuals. Ms Bell stated that they were currently setting up a number of workshops working under the banner of exchanges to find out what people were interested in. They had identified a number of groups and it was envisaged that over the next few weeks they would be the initial point of contact. She advised that Dryden Goodwin was the local artist working already in the area; he had created a film as well as producing portraits of people within the local community. At this point Ms Bell passed around the Business Plan Executive Summary plus Artistic Programme which provided greater details of the project. A copy of this document would be held at the Civic Offices for anyone to view. She went on to say that there were a number of other artists that they wanted to engage. Ed Carter was carrying out a Seaham based project, hopefully at the marina, and he had a base on the River Tyne. It was hoped that the new Town Hall could be used for some of the projects and other venues were being sourced. Funding was being applied for and it was envisaged that the project would employ three apprentices to support the project team. These apprentices would acquire a good skill set by the end of the project. There would also be a volunteering aspect with training attached and mentoring with community groups. Members were invited at this stage to air their views.

- (i) A Member asked whether it would be possible to incorporate some of these things into the Seaham Carnival. Ms Bell stated that Miners' Hymns were being performed at Easington Colliery Welfare Hall and she would ask whether there was a possibility of having choirs in attendance at the Carnival

She did state that the aim was to generate new groups and interests and as the launch date was to be in May, not too far away from the Carnival, it would be a good target audience. It was envisaged that all the artists would work within the community and this could tie in with the Carnival.

- (ii) It was queried how much of the £1.5m from the Arts Council was being spent within the East Durham area. Ms Bell explained that she did not have exact figures but explained that she would try to ascertain the split to enable a comparison to be made with a similar project taking place in another area of the north east.
- (iii) Ms Bell stated that they were striving for a standard of excellence and bringing in nationally acclaimed artists.

At this point the Chair thanked Ms Bell for her informative address and she then left the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 7TH JANUARY, 2014

RECOMMENDED 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 Chairman.

4. CONFERENCE APPOINTMENTS

RECOMMENDED the list of conference appointments a copy of which had been previously circulated, be approved.

5. CONFERENCES, COURSES AND SEMINARS

a) NAC Training and Development Seminar: Health and Wellbeing

The Committee considered details of the National Association of Councillors' Training and Development Seminar entitled 'Health and Wellbeing' to take place in York on 14th to 16th February, 2014.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) The Council be represented at the NAC Training and Development Seminar to be held in York on 14th to 16th February, 2014.
- (ii) The NAC standing representative, namely Councillor E Bell, together with the next two Members on the overnight rota, be appointed to attend, and such attendance rank as an approved duty for payment of appropriate allowances.

b) NALC Conference – What next for Localism?

The Committee considered details of the National Association of Local Council's one day Conference entitled 'What next for Localism?' to take place in London on Wednesday, 26th March, 2014.

RECOMMENDED that Seaham Town Council not be represented at the NALC 'What next for Localism?' conference to be held in London on 26th March, 2014.

6. NALC/CDALC ISSUES

a) E-Bulletins for County Associations and National Council

RECOMMENDED the Council note the latest E-Bulletin issued by NALC dated 17th January, 2014.

b) Nalc's Direct Information Service

RECOMMENDED the Council note the latest DIS Extra issued by NALC dated 24th January, 2014.

c) CDALC January, 2014 Newsletter

The Committee considered a communication from CDALC which included the latest edition of the Durham Association News dated January, 2014. Also detailed within the communication was a proposal to change the Area Committee Structure of CDALC by splitting it into 4 separate regions.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) The Council note the January 2014 edition of the Durham Association News.
- (ii) The proposed changes to the Area Committee Structure of CDALC be noted.

(d) Larger Local Councils Forum

The Committee considered a communication from CDALC which detailed the next meeting of the Larger Local Councils Forum on 14th February, 2014 to which topics for discussion were invited to be submitted. Members were advised that the meeting time shown was incorrect and the actual commencement time was 10.30 am.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the next meeting of the Larger Local Councils Forum was scheduled to take place on 14th February, 2014 at 10.30 am at Murton.

7. SUSTAINING DURHAM EVENTS

The Committee considered a communication from Durham Community Action which detailed Sustaining Durham free events to be held across the County. An agenda for the event to be held on 27th February, 2014 at Bowburn was also attached.

RECOMMENDED the next two Councillors from the appropriate rota be authorised to attend this event as the Council's representatives, and such attendance rank as an approved duty for payment of appropriate allowances; the bookings would not be made until places were confirmed by Members wishing to attend.

8. HEALTH TRAINER SERVICE

RECOMMENDED the Council note the details provided by the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust of the local NHS Health Trainer Services.

9. SPINAL INJURIES ASSOCIATION

The Committee considered a communication from the Spinal Injuries Association which sought support from the Town Council in the form of publicising their forthcoming event to be held in May, in its future publications or by display within the Civic Offices.

RECOMMENDED authority be granted for the Spinal Injuries Association's poster which advertises their forthcoming fundraising event to be displayed within the Civic Offices.

10. VISIT COUNTY DURHAM PUBLICATIONS

a) Wednesday Grapevine

RECOMMENDED the Council accept the recent editions of The Wednesday Grapevine, dated 8th and 22nd January, 2014.

11. SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE

A Member expressed concern that some of the content on the Town Council's website was in need of updating. In addition some of the recordings available to view on the site should be reviewed to ensure that they are appropriate, in particular with regard to whether members of the public had been approached and had agreed to have their faces publicised. It may be appropriate for signage to be displayed at future public events to ensure that the public are aware they are entering an area where filming or photography may take place. He asked that all Councillors and Officers review the website so that a discussion can take place at a future date as to its content. It was suggested that the legalities of such publication on websites be investigated.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) The Officers review the content of the Town Council's website to ensure its content is up to date.
- (ii) The Deputy Town Clerk investigate the legalities of publishing footage or photographs of the faces of members of the public

12. PRESS OPPORTUNITIES

RECOMMENDED the Council note that no press opportunities existed from this meeting.