

MINUTES OF THE ARTS AND INFORMATION COMMITTEE HELD ON 25TH NOVEMBER, 2014

Present: Councillor C Snowball (Chair) and Councillors Mrs M R Baird, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, B Burn Snr, B Burn Jnr, S Cudlip, Mrs S Forster, R Meir, Miss S Morrison, I Paul, R Whitehead, K Younger

Apologies: Councillors B Allen, Mrs B E Allen, R Arthur, H Cahill, B Taylor

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. PRESENTATION TO COUNCILLORS

The Chair welcomed Mr Robert Hunter to the meeting. Mr Hunter was present to show Members some of his recent aerial photographs of Seaham which he believed may be useful to the Town Council in their efforts to promote the town.

Mr Hunter stated he had been taking photographs of Seaham since 1979 and welcomed the opportunity to display a selection of these to Members. He then proceeded to display photographs of Seaham taken over this period of time which included the former three Collieries in addition to new developments such as Byron Place Shopping Centre and East Shore Village.

Mr Hunter advised that he had many more photographs in his possession and Members asked him to put together another selection for viewing at a later date, which he agreed to do.

At this point the Chair thanked Mr Hunter for taking the time to display his photographs and he then left the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 28TH OCTOBER, 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) **Conference evaluation form**

RECOMMENDED the Council accept the reports completed by the Council's two delegates who attended the Visit County Durham's Marketing Conference held recently.

b) **Larger Councils' Conference and Exhibition**

The Committee considered details of the National Association of Local Councils Larger Council's Conference and Exhibition to be held in London on 3rd December, 2014.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

6. **NALC/CDALC ISSUES**

a) **E-Bulletins for County Associations and National Council**

RECOMMENDED the latest E-Bulletins issued by NALC dated 24th October and 7th November, 2014, be noted.

b) **Bulletin from NALC AGM and Improvement & Development Board**

RECOMMENDED the communication received from NALC which detailed feedback from the NALC AGM and IDB meeting, be noted.

c) **NALC Larger Council Committee Elections**

The Committee considered a communication from CDALC in relation to the NALC Larger Council Committee elections and noted that the local Candidate was Councillor David Fleming from Bishop Auckland.

RECOMMENDED the Council submit its support for Councillor David Fleming's nomination.

d) **Draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment**

The Committee considered a communication from the County Durham Association of Local Councils which advised that a draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment was to be the subject of a statutory public consultation which would take place from 13th October to 12th December, 2014. Members were asked to either submit any comments online at the survey link shown on the communication or alternatively hand in the completed paper survey to the Town Hall so it could be submitted on their behalf.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

e) **DCLG MP's Speech to NALC AGM**

The Committee considered a communication from Steve Ragg with attached speech presented by Chris Hopkins, MP at the recent NALC AGM.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

f) **Bulletin from Larger Councils' Committee Meeting**

The Committee considered brief details of the discussions provided by the NALC Chief Executive to the NALC Larger Councils' Committee Meeting held on 14th October 2014.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

g) **Durham Association News**

RECOMMENDED that Council note Issue 49 of the Durham Association News published in October, 2014.

h) **NALC Scrutiny Panel**

The Committee considered details of NALC's activities nationally in respect of parish and town Councils.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

i) **Quality Status – Now the Local Council Award Scheme**

The Committee considered a communication from CDALC which detailed the revised Quality Council Scheme to be launched in late January, 2015 and which would now be called 'The Local Council Award Scheme'. The scheme had significantly changed from the original Quality Council Scheme and the Town Council suggested that Members may wish to take up the option to re-accredit at foundation status as this would remain in place until the end of December, 2015 and could be achieved without going through any accreditation process and without any cost. This would then provide sufficient time for the Town Council to re-assess the validity of the scheme.

RECOMMENDED the Council opt to reaccredit at foundation status.

7 **DESTINATION SEAHAM**

RECOMMENDED the minutes of the last meeting of the above Group, dated 23rd October, 2014, be noted.

8. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET CONSULTATION 2015-16

The Committee considered details of Durham County Council's Budget Consultation exercise which was to end on 12th December, 2014 for which views and comments were invited. In discussion the Town Clerk elaborated further on the communication and advised that Members may want the opportunity to put forward their concerns about the effects this would have on front line services.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information and submit any concerns they have either online or by post direct to Durham County Council.

9. EAST DURHAM AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP

RECOMMENDED the Minutes of the East Durham AAP Board Meeting held on 8th October, 2014 together with Minutes of three of the Priority Group meetings, be noted.

10. CITIZENS ADVICE COUNTY DURHAM

The Committee considered a communication from the East Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils together with correspondence between the Association and Citizens Advice County Durham. The Town Council was asked whether it wished to be represented at the next meeting of the Association to take place on Tuesday, 13th January, 2015 at Seaton Holme, Easington or alternatively whether it wished any views to be submitted.

RECOMMENDED authority be granted for the standing representative and the next two Councillors from the non-overnight rota to attend this event as the Council's representatives and such attendance rank as an approved duty for payment of appropriate allowances.

11. REVISED BUDGET FOR 2014/15 AND PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2015/16

The Chair of the Budget Sub-Committee asked that any Member who wished to raise any issues on these documents, copies of which had been circulated, submit these for discussion at the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to be held on Tuesday, 2nd December, 2014.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

12. PRESS OPPORTUNITIES

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