

MINUTES OF THE ARTS AND INFORMATION COMMITTEE HELD ON 2ND SEPTEMBER, 2014

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

B Taylor

Apologies: Councillors B Allen, Mrs B E Allen.

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 LAST MEETING HELD ON 25TH JUNE, 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.

3. CONFERENCE APPOINTMENTS

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

4. CONFERENCES, COURSES AND SEMINARS

a) CDALC Timetable of Training Events 2014

The Committee considered a timetable of training events for the remainder of the year organised by the County Durham and Cleveland County Training Partnership. The three training events covered:

- Delegation, Terms of Reference, Financial Regulations and Standing Orders.
- Setting and Controlling Budgets, Precepts and Grants
- Policies, Social media and the Press, Health and Safety and Risk Assessments.

RECOMMENDED any Elected Member who wishes undertake any of the training events contact the Civic Office direct to enable the necessary arrangements to be made; such attendance will rank as an approved duty for payment of appropriate allowances.

b) Time Management – Workshop for Members and Officers

The Committee considered details of a half day workshop to be held in a venue to be confirmed on Wednesday, 22nd October, 2014.

RECOMMENDED any Elected Member who wishes undertake the half day workshop contact the Civic Office direct to enable the necessary arrangements to be made; such attendance will rank as an approved duty for payment of appropriate allowances.

c) Conference Evaluation

RECOMMENDED the Council accept the report completed by the Council's delegates who attended the NAC's Managing Community Building and Assets Conference in Lytham St Annes on 27th to 29th June, 2014.

d) NAC Regional AGM and Conference (Funding community sports and play)

The Committee considered details of the National Association of Councillors' Regional AGM and Training and Development Seminar entitled 'Funding community sports and play' to take place in Wakefield on 26th to 28th September, 2014.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) The Council be represented at the NAC Regional AGM and Training and Development Seminar to be held in Wakefield on 26th to 28th September, 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.

e) Catching Conflict Upstream – Course for Members and Officers

The Committee considered details of the one day NEREO course to be held in a venue to be confirmed on Monday, 10th November, 2014.

RECOMMENDED that Seaham Town Council not be represented.

f) How to Write A Business Case – Workshop for Members and Officers

The Committee considered details of the half day NEREO workshop to be held in a venue to be confirmed on Wednesday, 12th November, 2014.

RECOMMENDED that Seaham Town Council not be represented.

g) Durham Heritage Coast – Annual Coastal Forum

The Committee considered the communication from Niall Benson with details of the 2014 Annual Coastal Forum half day event to be held at Peterlee on Thursday, 18th September. The Mayor indicated that he had been invited and that the Deputy Mayor would be attended in his place. IN discussion members decided that it would be appropriate for the Council's representative to the East Durham Heritage Coast Partnership to attend.

RECOMMENDED that Councillor B Burn (Jnr), the Deputy Mayor and Councillor C Snowball be authorised to attend this event as the Council's representatives, and such attendance rank as an approved duty for payment of appropriate allowances.

5. CHANGE OF START TIME - COUNCIL MEETING

RECOMMENDED that with immediate effect the start time for the meeting of the Full Council be changed to 7.30 pm instead of 7.00 pm with the public session being 7.30 pm to 7.45 pm.

6. NALC/CDALC ISSUES

a) Fly A Flag For The Commonwealth 9th March 2015

The Committee considered communications from NALC and the Virdee Foundation which relate to the ability for Town Councils to participate in this initiative from March 2015 and Parish Councils from March 2016. In discussion Members felt that it would be appropriate to have a suitable flag pole mounted on the roof of the Town Hall in order to fly a flag as required. It was also felt that participation in this initiative would be appropriate, however prior to making a decision Members wished to know how much a suitable flag pole would cost.

RECOMMENDED that the cost of a suitable flag pole to be mounted on the roof of the Town Hall be obtained and brought back to a future meeting of this Committee at which time this issue will be given further consideration.

b) CDALC Executive Committee

The Committee considered correspondence detailing the latest appointments to the CDALC Executive Committee and minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held 21st March 2014.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

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

RECOMMENDED the latest e-bulletins issued by NALC dated 4th July and 15th and 29th August, 2014 be accepted.

d) **NALC Legal Updates**

RECOMMENDED the communications issued by NALC in relation to Legal Topic notes LTN01 and LTN05 and Legal Briefing I02-14 be noted.

e) **Census Data**

RECOMMENDED the communication issued by CDALC in relation to census data information be noted.

f) **Consultation on the Future of Local Audit**

RECOMMENDED the NALC response to the consultation on the future of Local Audit, be noted.

g) **NALC Briefings**

RECOMMENDED the latest briefings from the NALC Chief Executive in relation to various issues including filming/recording of meetings and the recent ministerial reshuffle be noted.

h) **The County Durham Compact**

RECOMMENDED the communication from CDALC which provides further information in relation to the County Durham Compact and guidance which has been jointly developed by NALC and Compact Voice, be noted.

i) **Selection of Vice Presidents at CDALC AGM**

RECOMMENDED the communication from CDALC which advises that the filling of the two vice president vacancies will be considered at the AGM on 8th November, 2014, be noted.

j) **Give Parishes a Chance to Support the Local Economy**

RECOMMENDED the update from CDALC on the Sevenoaks TC Sustainable Communities Act submission to the Government to allow parish and town councils to be allocated a share of the business rates collected by central government, be noted.

k) **NALC Legal Topic Note LTN81- Predetermination**

RECOMMENDED the update issued by NALC in relation to Legal Topic notes LTN81, be noted.

7. **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MEMBERS BRIEFING NOTE – AUGUST 2014**

RECOMMENDED the Durham County Council Regeneration and Economic Development Members Briefing Note published in August, 2014, be noted.

8. **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14**

RECOMMENDED the Durham County Council Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2013-14, be noted.

9. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING NEWSLETTER**

RECOMMENDED the communication from CDALC in relation to Neighbourhood Plans, be noted.

10. **EAST DURHAM AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP**

RECOMMENDED:

- i) The minutes of the AAP MSFOOC Priority Group's meeting held on 6th June, 2014, be noted.
- ii) The details of the AAP Board meeting to be held on 10th September, 2014, be noted.

11. **DESTINATION SEAHAM**

RECOMMENDED the minutes of the last meeting of the Destination Seaham Group which was held on 17th April, be noted.

12. **STAFF TRAINING – ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

RECOMMENDED the additional training at a cost of £100 on Photoshop for Mrs J Young, Administrative Assistant, be approved.

13. **ASDA RESPONSE TO LETTER OF THANKS**

RECOMMENDED the response received from Asda to the Town Council's letter of thanks for their efforts in maintaining the cleanliness of the beaches within the town, be noted.

14. NOW EAST DURHAM ONLINE NEWSPAPER

The Committee considered correspondence from Mr Nicholas McHale which provided details of the NOW East Durham online newspaper and requested anyone interested to go down and record a video giving their views on local issues for their new feature “Eye-Pod”.

RECOMMENDED any Elected Member who wishes take part contact the Civic Office direct to obtain further details.

15. COUNTY COUNCILLOR PAULINE CHARLTON FUNERAL ARRANGEMENT

RECOMMENDED the sad news of the death of Durham County Councillor Pauline Charlton and the funeral arrangements, be noted.