

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE HELD ON 11TH MARCH, 2014

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

Observer: Councillor Mrs G Bleasdale

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. DURHAM HERITAGE COAST

The Committee was advised that Mr Niall Benson of the Durham Heritage Coast who had intended to be present this evening, had extended his apologies that due to a personal issue, he was unable to attend. He had indicated his willingness to attend a meeting of this Committee at some point in the future.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11TH FEBRUARY, 2014

RECOMMENDED the Minutes of these meetings, copies of which had been previously printed and circulated to each Member, be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman

4. TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS ISSUES

a) Dawdon Railway Bridge

The Committee considered the response received from Network Rail in relation to the Town Council's concerns over pooling water at this location. It was reported that two people from Network Rail were on site last week to inspect the bridge and hopefully there would be a resolution of this problem in the near future.

Members were also advised that, with regard to the Seaham Station, contractors were now on site working on the new lighting. The signal box was to be demolished by the middle of next week

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

b) **Temporary Road Closure**
Unclassified Road 21.19 Lord Byron's Walk, Seaham

RECOMMENDED the Council note the Order made under Section 14(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984 to temporarily close a 400 metre length of the above road for a period of 3 nights from 31st March, 2014 to allow rail track renewals to be undertaken an alternative route would be made available during the closure.

5. **PLANNING ISSUES**

a) **Monthly List**

RECOMMENDED the list of planning applications referred to all Councillors since the last meeting, namely 5269 to 5272 as circulated, be noted.

b) **Land Adjacent to 1 Laurel Avenue, Seaham**

The Committee considered a communication received from Durham County Council which detailed an application to purchase land adjacent to the above address.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

c) **Change of Use from Offices to Residential at Unit 3, Lighthouse View, Spectrum Business Park – Update**
Planning Application CE/14/0014 – 1/PNBNB

The Committee was reminded that the above planning application for a change of use from office to residential at Spectrum Business Park by way of a conversion of a 3-floor business unit to 60 residential dwellings had been considered at the last meeting and an objection had subsequently been submitted by the Town Council. An update had since been received from Durham County Council's Planning Officer which advised that the applicants were unable to use the prior notification procedure as the proposed change was not permitted development.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

6. **LICENSING ISSUES**

Prior to the consideration of this item, Councillor E Bell declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

The Committee was reminded that at the last meeting a variation to an existing

licence at the Seaham Bar and Bistro had been considered and concern was expressed by Members about the potential impact this could have upon residents in the surrounding areas. Clarification was sought in relation to the notification process in respect of nearby residential homes and Durham County Council's response, a copy of which had been previously circulated, detailed the process followed in respect of a new, variation or review of an existing licence. A Member queried the location of the Bistro in question and the Town Clerk agreed to investigate and report back.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) The Council note the information now reported.
- (ii) Investigation take place with regard to the location of the Seaham Bar and Bistro detailed at the last meeting with a report back to the appropriate Member.

7. PRESS OPPORTUNITIES

The Committee considered the items previously discussed and agreed that the pressure maintained by the Town Council on Network Rail, as detailed in item number 4 a, should be notified to the press.

RECOMMENDED the information contained in item number 4 a be promoted in the press