

**MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE HELD ON 3RD JUNE, 2014**

Present: Councillors Mrs M R Baird, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, Mrs G Bleasdale, B Burn Snr, B Burn Jnr, S Cudlip, R Meir, Miss S Morrison, I Paul, G A Shepherd, C Snowball, R Whitehead, K Younger

Apologies: Councillor B Allen, Mrs B E Allen, R Arthur, Mrs H Cahill

Observer: Mr B Taylor

**1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE ENSUING YEAR**

RECOMMENDED Councillor Mrs J A Bell be appointed Chair of this Committee for the ensuing year.

(Councillor Mrs J A Bell in the Chair)

**2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE ENSUING YEAR**

RECOMMENDED Councillor Miss S Morrison be appointed Vice-Chair of this Committee for the ensuing year.

**3. 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.

**4. SEAHAM POLICE**

The Chair welcomed Inspector Darren Walton and PC Warren Gibson of Seaham Police to the meeting.

Inspector Walton thanked Members for the opportunity to attend to introduce himself as Community Inspector to the Town Council. He stated he had been born and raised in Peterlee and had been with the Police force for nineteen years. He was happy to be able to work in the region and believed Seaham to be a beautiful place which had progressed significantly in recent years. He advised that his objective was to ensure a high standard of policing was maintained in the area, despite financial constraints. A Member asked what priorities he had and Inspector Walton stated a reduction in crime, in terms of burglaries and vehicle crime. His personal priority was to continue to deliver a good police service to the community by engaging with the community and tackling offenders. He was asked whether he could provide the Town Council with contact details and Inspector Walton

agreed to provide the Town Clerk with Seaham beat times, e-mail addresses, direct line numbers to the office and his own blackberry mobile number. A Member stated that residents in Dalton Heights had raised concerns about the number of thefts in that area of garden tools and garden furniture in recent weeks. Inspector Walton agreed that there had been a spate of shed burglaries in that area over a period of 6 to 8 weeks, but nothing recently as the offenders had been caught and detained. Since that time he reported that shed burglaries throughout the region had reduced by approximately 50%

At this point the Chair thanked Inspector Walton and PC Gibson for their attendance and information provided, and they then left the meeting.

**5. DURHAM HERITAGE COAST**

The Committee was advised that subsequent to publication of the agenda Mr Niall Benson of the Durham Heritage Coast had extended his apologies to the Town Council for his inability to attend as originally agreed. He had made subsequent arrangements to attend the next meeting of this Committee on 1st July, 2014.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

**6. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6TH MAY, 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

**7. TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS ISSUES**

**a) Highways Services – Weekly Update**

The Committee considered the weekly Highways Services updates for weeks commencing 12th and 19th May, 2014.

In discussion with regard to the traffic lights at Seaton a Member stated that the meeting she and another Member were to attend this week had been cancelled and another had been arranged for next Monday at 4 pm with Dave Battersby of the Highways Department. It was also envisaged that Maxine Stubbs would be in attendance and a further update would be provided to Members at the next meeting.

RECOMMENDED the weekly Highways Services updates published for the weeks commencing 12th and 19th May, 2014 be noted.

**b) Dawdon Footbridge**

The Committee considered the communication from Durham County Council, a copy of which had been previously circulated, in relation to the Dawdon footbridge. In discussion it was reported that workmen had only been

present on Monday and not for the entire week, and the problem had not been resolved.

RECOMMENDED an appropriate letter be sent to question what action had been taken and why the situation had not been resolved.

**8. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

**a) Whitburn Sewerage System**

The Committee considered a communication between DEFRA and Mr Bob Latimer in relation to his request for information on the Whitburn sewerage system.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

**9. GENERAL ISSUES**

**a) Neighbourhood Protection Team Updates**

RECOMMENDED the Council note the Neighbourhood Protection Team Performance Report for Seaham dated April 2014.

**b) PCC Newsletter – May, 2014**

RECOMMENDED the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner's Newsletter dated May, 2014 be noted.

**10. PLANNING ISSUES**

**a) Monthly List**

RECOMMENDED the list of planning applications referred to all Councillors since the last meeting, namely 5288 to 5292 as circulated be noted.