

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE HELD ON 9TH SEPTEMBER, 2014

Present: Councillor Jenny Bell (Chair)
Councillors S. Morrison, E. Bell, R. Myers,
B. Burn Snr. B. Burn Jnr. K. Shaw, R.
Whitehead. I. Paul, N. Page, G. Bleasdale.
C Snowball. K. Younger.

Observers: R. Arthur, D. Consett, Wendy Berry, Barry
Taylor & one other arrived late and no
name provided.

Apologies: Councillors S. Forster, S. Cudlip, B. Allen.
B. E. Allen, M. Baird,

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.

Cllr G. Bleasdale declared an interest, Councillors Mrs J Bell declared an interest in Section 5a and 5b, and Councillor E Bell declared an interest in section 5a, b and item 3. Councillors Miss S Morrison declared an interest in item 5b. Councillor Younger declared an interest in item 5.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1ST JULY, 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.

3. TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS ISSUES

a) Neighbourhood Services – Highways

RECOMMENDED the weekly updates in relation to Highway Services for the weeks commencing 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th July, 2014, 4th August, 2014 and 1st September, 2014. be noted.

b) B1287 East Shore Road, Seaham – Temporary Road Closure

RECOMMENDED the Council note the Order, previously advised during recess, made under the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984 to temporarily close a 500 metre section of the above road for a period of three days by means of a Notice under section 14(1), to allow resurfacing works to be undertaken.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

a) Tyne and Wear Aquifer Protection Scheme

The Committee considered a communication from Mr Bob Latimer in relation to the Whitburn Sewerage system together with the response of the North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority with regards to the consultation on the scheme. A Member said that it remains to be seen whether the coal authority or environment agency takes any notice of it. Another Member stated that a detailed assessments gone in but it would be good to ask Bob Latimer to come and speak at a future meeting. It was also discussed that Newcastle University have not come back with regards to water testing but that the Heritage Coast officer was looking into testing. Members discussed a meeting that had been held between Seaham and Sunderland Councillors regarding the issue. Members discussed the recent ruling against Northumbrian Water. A Member stated that the starfish had significantly declined. A Member said South Tyneside Council are include, Sunderland Council and Durham Council who have provided a detailed report on this and also the in shore fisheries. It was suggested that a one day conference be held between all involved. Members noted to take the issue to another meeting.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported and takes the issue to another meeting.

b) Proposed Dog Controls Seaham Beaches

The Committee considered a communication from a resident in relation to the proposed dog controls and how items discarded on the beach, which could present a threat to health, will be dealt with. A Member suggested that the issues should be taken to Durham County Council including the issue of cars on the promenade. A Member stated that fishermen with a Blue badge have rights and another member suggested putting a gate on but another member stated that the emergency services would not allow this. Another member stated that the works on the pier had moved some fishermen onto other areas of the coast. It was agreed that Seaham Town Council would write to Durham County Council asking for records of when they have visited the sites and what they have managed to do to improve the situation.

RECOMMENDED The Council writes to Durham County Council asking for records of when they have visited the sites and what has been done to improve the situation and also inform the fishing club that the County has been informed and whether their members could clean up.

c) **Fracking Payments to Town and Parish Councils**

The Committee considered a communication from NALC which detailed the recent request made to government for eligible Town and Parish Councils to receive a minimum payment from fracking companies for underground drilling for shale gas.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

5. **GENERAL ISSUES**

a) **Neighbourhood Protection Team Update**

RECOMMENDED the June edition of the Neighbourhood Protection Team update with regard to Seaham, be noted.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

6. **PLANNING ISSUES**

a) **Monthly List**

RECOMMENDED that the list of planning applications referred to all Councillors since the last meeting, namely 5296 to 5308 as circulated be noted.

b) **Planning Application – 135 New Dwellings South of Dalton Heights**

The Committee considered a communication from Durham County Council in response to the objection recently submitted by the Town Council and a copy of the objection submitted by Grahame Morris MP for Easington.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

c) **Planning Consultation – Erection of New School, Parking, Landscaping and Sports Facilities at the Former Colliery Site at Station Road, Seaham**

The Committee considered a communication from Durham County Council and relevant supporting documentation in relation to the application. Members stated that the Council had long been in support of the School but it appears that Miller the builders may be in a takeover situation so it was important to watch what happens and the disappointment that a swimming pool is not included.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

d) **Location of 1101 Sculpture on Terrace Green**

The Committee considered a communication from Durham County Council Planning department which included their response on this matter to Grahame Morris MP for Easington. Members were also informed that with regard to the planning and other requirements for the permanent siting of the sculpture, the Deputy Town Clerk is working with the planning department and Mission 1101 in order to source any available funding and to make the necessary arrangements. The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that he had a meeting with Mission 1101 the following Tuesday and would endeavour to get the planning application submitted the following day.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

7. **PRESS OPPORTUNITIES**

RECOMMENDED The Council contact the press with regards to the ongoing campaign to clean up the beaches.