

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE HELD ON 2ND DECEMBER, 2014

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

Apologies: Councillors B Allen, Mrs B E Allen, E Bell, Mrs H Cahill, N Page

Observer: Councillor Mrs G Bleasdale

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. CARAVAN AND CAMPING SITE PROPOSAL

The Committee was advised that Mr John Noble, who had been scheduled to be in attendance to provide Members with an update on his proposal for a caravan and camping site within Seaham, was unable to attend but hoped to be available at some point in the new year.

RECOMMENDED this item is deferred for consideration to the next meeting.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 4TH NOVEMBER, 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) Amendment to Waiting and Loading Restrictions

RECOMMENDED the Council note the proposals to amend the waiting and loading restrictions within the town as notified by Durham County Council on 19th November, 2014.

b) **Neighbourhood Services – Highways**

RECOMMENDED the weekly update in relation to Highway Services for the week commencing 24th November, 2014, be noted.

5. **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

a) **Pollution of Coastal Waters**

RECOMMENDED the Council note the correspondence sent to Emma Lewell-Buck MP in the House of Commons from the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in relation to the application by the Coal Authority to discharge from the Whitburn mine.

6. **GENERAL ISSUES**

a) **Removal of BT Phone Boxes**

RECOMMENDED the communication from Durham County Council which advised of their consent to the proposed removal of BT public phone boxes in Burnhall Drive and Stockton Road, Seaham, be noted.

b) **DCC Environment, Health and Consumer Protection Enforcement Policy consultation**

The Committee considered a communication from Steve Ragg with attached consultation document from Durham County Council in relation to the above to which responses were requested by 7th January, 2015. Members were asked to either submit their responses individually to the County Council or alternatively hand in their submissions to the Town Hall who would submit them on their behalf.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

c) **Neighbourhood Protection Team Update**

RECOMMENDED the Seaham Performance Report for October, 2014m included within the Neighbourhood Protection Team Update, a copy of which was circulated, be noted.

6. **LICENSING ISSUES**

a) **New Premises Licence**

The Committee considered an application for a new premises licence for the sale of alcohol, live music, recorded music and late night refreshment for Seaham Harbour Cricket Club.

Prior to making a determination on this issue, Members asked for clarification as to how significant a change this was to be. The last date for representations to this application is 19th December, 2014.

RECOMMENDED this item is deferred for consideration to the next meeting by which time the Town Clerk could advise on the current licensing arrangements for this Club.

7. PLANNING ISSUES

a) Monthly List

RECOMMENDED that the list of planning applications referred to all Councillors since the last meeting, namely 5322 to 5325 as circulated be noted.

8. SEAHAM WAY FINDERS

The Committee was reminded that at the last meeting it was reported that the Town Council had been asked by Durham County Council to take on responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the Seaham Way Finders and finger posts proposed for Seaham. Since that time information had been received in respect of the ongoing costs in respect of maintenance and insurance which was envisaged to be negligible.

RECOMMENDED the Council agree to take over responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the wayfinders and fingerposts detailed in the communication, subject to responsibility for any future additional proposed signage being retained by Durham County Council's Highways Authority.

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

RECOMMENDED this item is deferred for consideration to the next meeting.

10. PRESS OPPORTUNITIES

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