

## **MINUTES OF THE ARTS AND INFORMATION COMMITTEE HELD ON 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2014**

Present: Councillor C Snowball (Chair) and Councillors B Allen, Mrs B E Allen, R Arthur, Mrs M R Baird, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, Mrs G Bleasdale, B Burn Jnr, S Cudlip, Mrs S Forster, R Meir, Miss S Morrison, I Paul, R Whitehead, K Younger.

Observers: Ms W Berry, B Taylor

Apologies: Mrs H Cahill

### **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 2ND SEPTEMBER, 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. NALC/CDALC ISSUES**

#### **a) NALC Larger Councils Direct Elections 2014-2016**

The Committee considered communication from NALC which related to the process for the election of four members of the NALC Larger Councils' Committee for the tenure November 2014 to November 2016.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

#### **b) Proportion of Business Rates for Parish Councils**

The Committee considered correspondence detailing the latest status of the proposal made by Sevenoaks Town Council under the Sustainable Communities Act. Members acknowledged the difficulties Sevenoaks TC were experiencing in achieving this under the current government. Members also felt that this highlighted NALCs weighted allegiance to the south of the country in preference to the north.

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 11th and 26th September, 2014 be accepted.

d) **NALC Chief Executive Update, Executive and Finance Bulletins**

RECOMMENDED the communications issued by NALC detailing the latest update from the NALC Chief Executive and bulletins from the Executive and Finance committees, be noted.

e) **NALC Bulletin – SCA Board Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2014**

RECOMMENDED the communication issued by NALC detailing the latest submissions made by Town and Parish councils under the Sustainable Communities Act, be noted.

f) **NALC Update following Labour Party Conference**

RECOMMENDED the communication issued by NALC detailing how NALC is promoting the Town and Parish council sector to members of parliament, local councillors, think tanks and other bodies during the party conference season, be noted.

5. **EAST DURHAM AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP**

RECOMMENDED:

- i) The minutes of the AAP MSFOOC Priority Group's meeting held on 4th July, 2014, be noted.
- ii) The minutes of the Job Creation, Education and Training Priority Group's meeting held on 8th July, 2014, be noted.
- iii) The minutes of the Children and Young People Priority Group's meeting held on 27th June, 2014, be noted.

6. **PETITION RECEIVED**

The Committee considered an anonymised copy of a letter recently received which has been completed by 86 individual Canadians concerning the killing of a rabbit in Seaham in June 2014. In discussion Members condemned such an act of cruelty and acknowledged the concerns raised by those who had submitted the petition. It was felt that the differences between the roles and responsibilities of UK and Canadian local government had meant that this petition had been sent to the Town Council when it should have been directed to Durham Constabulary who were dealing with the matter.

RECOMMENDED the contents of the petition be noted by the Committee and the documents forwarded to Durham Constabulary.

**7. PRESS OPPORTUNITIES**

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