

## **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16TH JUNE, 2015**

Present: Councillor Miss S Morrison (Presiding),  
and Councillors Mrs M R Baird, E Bell,  
Mrs J A Bell, Mrs G Bleasdale,  
Mrs S Forster, R Meir, I Paul, K Shaw,  
C Snowball, B Taylor, R Whitehead.

Apologies: Councillors R Arthur, S Cudlip,  
Mrs H J Cahill, K Younger.

### **1. CHAIRMAN**

In the absence of the Mayor of the Council, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Miss S Morrison took the Chair at this meeting.

(Councillor Miss S Morrison in the Chair)

*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.*

### **2. 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.

### **3. OPEN SESSION**

In accordance with established policy the Council provided a fifteen minute opportunity for any members of the public to raise questions. During this period no issues were raised.

### **4. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 15TH MAY, 2015**

RESOLVED the Minutes of this meeting, a copy of which had been previously printed and circulated to each Member, be approved, subject to the following amendments to Member appointments, and that they be signed as a correct record:

- Representative to Sure Start, Seaham still to be decided at a future meeting;
- Representatives to East Durham Association of Town and Parish Councils to be Councillors B Burn (Snr) and K Shaw;
- Representatives to Destination Seaham to be Councillors Miss S Morrison and K Younger;
- Representative to Seaham Marina to be Councillor Mrs M R Baird;
- Representative to Safe Durham Partnership still to be decided at a future meeting once it has been confirmed if the partnership still operates;
- Chair of Planning and Environmental Committee to be Councillor Mrs B E Allen;

- Vice-Chair of Establishment Sub-Committee to be Councillor Mrs B E Allen;
- Vice-Chair of Allotments Sub-Committee to be Councillor N R Page.

## **5. REPORTS OF SERVICE COMMITTEES**

RESOLVED that the reports of the following Committees, copies of which had been previously printed and circulated to each Member, be approved:

- a) Report of Arts and Information Committee held on 19th May, 2015;
- b) Report of Parks and Events Committee held on 19th May, 2015;
- c) Report of the Clerk's Advisory Sub-Committee held on 26th May, 2015;
- d) Report of the Establishment Sub-Committee held on 26th May, 2015;
- e) Report of Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 2nd June, 2015;
- f) Report of Planning and Environmental Committee held on 2nd June, 2015;
- g) Report of the Twinning Committee held on 2nd June, 2015.

## **6. ANNUAL RETURN – FINANCIAL YEAR 2014/15**

The Committee was advised that under the Limited Assurance Audit Regime the Council's statutory accounts be produced in the form of an Annual Return which must be approved prior to the end of the month of June following the financial year to which it relates. The Committee considered a copy of the completed Annual Return which reflects the information contained in the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 31st March 2015 (Not subject to Audit). Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return which reflects the information contained in the Financial Statements were considered for official approval and signing.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Council formally approve Section 1, Accounting Statements for Seaham Town Council, of the Annual Return for the financial year ended 31st March 2015.
- (ii) That the Council formally approve Section 2, Annual Governance Statement, of the Annual Return for the financial year ended 31st March 2015.

## **7. SEAHAM MARINA UPDATE**

Councillor Mrs M R Baird, as the Council's representative to Seaham Marina gave the following update. Councillor Baird had attended a meeting on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June with Lisa Jordan, the Marina Manager and she began by assuring Councillors that the organisation of future meetings had now been resolved and that if Members

had any specific information requests they should inform her, at any time, so that the query can be taken forward. Councillor Mrs Baird then went on to say that the 12 commercial units were now fully occupied with one unit containing the marina management and the rest a variety of retailers providing foodstuffs, beverages, gifts, crafts, hairstyling and travel agency facilities. All of the available 77 berths are also full and there is a waiting list which demonstrates the popularity of the facility. Three berths are retained by the marina management of which one has currently been provided free gratis to the Seaham Sea Cadets. A number of job and apprentice opportunities have been created within the new commercial enterprises and within the marina operation itself (four assistant posts and a temporary summer employee).

Members were reminded that Mr Tony Forster, Regeneration Manager, Durham County Council provided a detailed update on current activity at the marina to a recent meeting of the Town Promotion and Development Committee. As an update to that Councillor Mrs Baird stated that with regard to physical and environmental improvements the replacement of the fencing is scheduled for 2016 and the extension of the boatyard, pontoons and installation of the boat hoist in the south dock are scheduled for October 2015. Construction of the proposed water sports centre is also expected to commence during 2016.

In discussion, Members commended the excellent improvements taking place at the marina and it was also hoped that the refurbishment of the pier, scheduled for completion in October 2015, would also include suitable stone rampart protection for the walkway.

RESOLVED that the report of the Council's representative to Seaham marina be noted.