

MINUTES OF THE ARTS AND INFORMATION COMMITTEE HELD ON 3RD FEBRUARY, 2015

Present: Councillor C Snowball (Chair) and Councillors B Allen, Mrs B E Allen, R Arthur, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, Mrs G Bleasdale, B Burn Snr, B Burn Jnr, Mrs S Forster, Miss S Morrison, N R Page, I Paul, B Taylor, R Whitehead, K Younger

Observer: Ms W Berry

Apologies: Councillor Mrs H Cahill, K Shaw

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. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 6TH JANUARY, 2015

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. CONFERENCES, COURSES AND SEMINARS

a) SLCC Northern Regional Conference

The Committee considered details of the Northern Regional Conference of the Society of Local Council Clerks to be held at Ramside Hall Hotel in Durham on Wednesday, 3rd June, 2015.

RECOMMENDED authority be granted for the Town clerk to attend this conference as part of his continued professional development, and such attendance rank as an approved duty for payment of appropriate allowances.

b) Conference Evaluation Report

The Committee considered the Conference Evaluation Form, completed on behalf of the Council's three delegates who attended the National Association of Councillors' Health and Wellbeing Conference in January.

RECOMMENDED the Council accept the report.

c) NAC Training Event

The Committee considered details of a NAC training and development seminar to be held in Harrogate from 27th February to 1st March, 2015 on the subjects of 'Engaging with the Public' and 'Chairmanship skills'.

RECOMMENDED the Town Council is not represented at the NAC training and development seminar at Harrogate.

5. NALC/CDALC ISSUES

a) Larger Councils Committee

The Committee considered a communication from NALC which summarised the issues discussed at the meeting of the Larger Councils Committee held on 20th January, together with the draft minutes.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

b) NALC and National Events Report

The Committee considered NALC's proposal for conferences and events during 2015, a copy of which had been previously circulated.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

c) Bulletin Feedback from Meetings and Improvement and Development Board

The Committee considered communications from CDALC and NALC which provided feedback from a Ministerial meeting on the local government finance settlement and the LGA meeting and also the Improvement and Development Board which met on 6th January, 2015. A letter from Grahame Morris, MP, as President of CDALC sent to the Department for Communities and Local Government on the issues of capping/referenda principles and the localisation of council tax support was also considered.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

d) Use of Electronic Summonses for Council Agendas etc.

The Committee considered a communication from CDALC which provided an update on the issue of the use of electronic communications to send summonses.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

e) NALC's Direct Information Service

RECOMMENDED the latest DIS Extra issued by NALC dated 9th January, 2015 be noted.

f) Bulletins from Various NALC meetings

RECOMMENDED the feedback provided on discussions held during recent NALC meetings, as detailed in a communication dated 29th January from Mr Jonathan Owen, be noted.

g) National Voter Registration Day – 5th February, 2015

RECOMMENDED the communication from NALC which provided details of the National Voter Registration Day on 5th February, 2015 and how to vote online, be noted.

6. DESTINATION SEAHAM

RECOMMENDED the Council accept the minutes of the last meeting of the Destination Seaham Group, which took place on 8th January, 2015.

7. EAST DURHAM AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP

RECOMMENDED the minutes of the meetings of the East Durham AAP's Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing Priority Group on 4th November, 2014 and the Children and Young People Priority Group on 11th December, 2014, copies of which were circulated, be noted.

8. COASTAL COMMUNITIES FUND ANNOUNCEMENT

The Committee considered a communication from Durham County Council which advised of the successful award of a grant to Seaham Harbour Marina from the Coastal Communities Fund. A Member elaborated on the future proposals for the marina which would create a number of jobs.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

9. RNLI SEAHAM STATION MEMORIAL

The Committee considered a communication from the East Durham Heritage Group which detailed their proposal to create a memorial within the Seaham Marina for all the crews of RNLI Seaham.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

10. EDAN EXHIBITION

The Committee considered details of a free exhibition planned to take place at the Art Block in Church Street from 17th February to 28th March, a copy of which was circulated.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

11. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

The communication from the Local Government Association dated 29th January, 2015, a copy of which was circulated, be noted.

12. PRESS OPPORTUNITIES

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