

MINUTES OF THE ARTS AND INFORMATION COMMITTEE HELD ON 23RD JUNE, 2015

Present: Councillors Mrs M R Baird, E Bell,
Mrs J A Bell, Mrs G Bleasdale,
B Burn Jnr, S Cudlip, Mrs S Forster,
N R Page, K Shaw, C Snowball, B Taylor,
R Whitehead, K Younger

Apologies: Councillors B Allen, Mrs B E Allen,
B Burn Snr, Mrs H Cahill, R Meir,
Miss S Morrison, I Paul,

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair, Councillor K Younger, took the Chair

(Councillor K Younger 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.

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 19TH MAY, 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. EAST COAST TRAIN SERVICE

Pursuant to a request for further information Members were informed that there are no franchise obligations for new services which would facilitate Seaham being served by Virgin Trains North East. In terms of improved services for the North East, they have aspirations to extend Newcastle services to and from Sunderland and to introduce services to Middlesbrough via Northallerton. In discussion Members expressed their disappointment that new services to and from Seaham were not being considered.

RECOMMENDED the information concerning the East Coast Train Service, be noted.

5. EAST DURHAM AAP

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the AAP Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing Priority Group meeting held on 23rd April, 2015 be noted.

6. COUNTY DURHAM LARGER LOCAL COUNCILS FORUM

The Committee considered the communication from Steve Ragg, Executive Officer of CDALC received in response to the request from the Town Council for representatives to be able to attend LLCF meetings in an observer capacity. In discussion Members were extremely disappointed with the response received and actually felt the response incorrect as historically the forum had originally been established outside the auspices of NALC.

According to Councillors recollection it was actually at the initiative of Seaham Town Council with other likeminded larger councils in County Durham (some of which were not members of NALC) that this forum was created. It was formed to bring together larger local councils in County Durham to enable them to provide help to each other and to share experiences and information. Whilst, in subsequent years, CDALC may have piggy backed onto the forum and now provide the secretariat for it, CDALC was not a prime mover which brought about the forums creation, this was the larger councils themselves. As this wasn't the basis upon which it was established, membership of CDALC or NALC was never a pre-requisite for any Council wishing to attend and nor should this be the case now.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now provided and a suitable response detailing the thoughts of Members be sent to the forum.

7. MISSION 1101 CONSTITUTION

Pursuant to a request for further information Members were informed that within the constitution of Mission 1101 the stated aims are:

- a. To raise funds from the public, business and through education sponsorship.
- b. To purchase "Eleven O One" from Ray Lonsdale for the people of Seaham for the value of £85,000+VAT or less if bought by our granting charity or Council and VAT is claimed back.
- c. To use additional funds that come into the community account for the good of Seaham as a town and to support community projects.

RECOMMENDED the information concerning the Mission 1101 constitution, be noted.

8. PRESS OPPORTUNITIES

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