

## **MINUTES OF THE ARTS AND INFORMATION COMMITTEE HELD ON 27TH OCTOBER, 2015**

Present: Councillor I Paul (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 Snr, B Burn Jnr, Mrs H Cahill,  
S Cudlip, Mrs S Forster, R Meir,  
Miss S Morrison, K Shaw, C Snowball,  
B Taylor, R Whitehead, K Younger

Apologies: Councillor N Page

*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 29TH SEPTEMBER, 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) Future NAC Events 2015/16**

The Committee considered the advance details of conferences being arranged by the National Association of Councillors and were advised that more detailed information would be available nearer to the date of each one.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information.

#### **b) Conference Evaluation Forms**

The Committee considered the Conference Evaluation Forms, completed by the Council's three delegates who attended the Planning and Partnerships Conference at Blackpool, organised by the National Association of Councillors.

RECOMMENDED the Council accept the reports.

**c) Shaping Durham's Visitor Economy**

The Committee considered details of Visit County Durham's annual autumn conference on Wednesday, 4th November, 2015 at Ramside Hall Hotel in Durham.

RECOMMENDED authority be granted for the next two Councillors from the non-overnight rota to attend this event as the Council's representatives and such attendance rank as an approved duty for payment of appropriate allowances.

**d) NAC Annual General Meeting and Conference**

The Committee considered details of the Annual General Meeting and Conference arranged by the National Association of Councillors, a copy of which had been previously circulated. The conference was to be held in Harrogate on 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2015.

RECOMMENDED that the next two Councillors from the appropriate rota be authorised to attend this event as the Council's representatives, and such attendance rank as an approved duty for payment of appropriate allowances; the bookings would not be made until places were confirmed by Members wishing to attend.

**5. COUNTY DURHAM AND DARLINGTON NHS FOUNDATION TRUST**

RECOMMENDED the Council note the October Newsletter published by the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust in relation to Peterlee Macmillan Information and Support.

**6. EAST DURHAM AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP**

RECOMMENDED the Council accept the minutes of the meeting of the East Durham AAP's Board which met on 9th September, 2015.

**7. SEAHAM SCOUTS**

The Committee considered a letter from the Regional Development Officer – UYSAF Durham and Cleveland Scout Association which detailed their intention to encourage young people and adults to become involved in a new Scout group in Seaham.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

**8. REVISED BUDGET FOR 2015/16 AND PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2016/17**

The Committee considered the estimates for arts and information services, a copy of which had been previously circulated. These outlined revised budgets for the current financial year and the proposed estimates for the next financial year covering all income and expenditure issues and which would be submitted for further consideration to the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

RECOMMENDED the estimates be provisionally approved, subject to review at the November meetings, with the intention of the Council setting its precept at the December full Council meeting.

**9. DESTINATION SEAHAM**

The Committee considered the minutes of the Destination Seaham group which met on 17<sup>th</sup> September. In discussion Members conveyed their dissatisfaction at the comment made in item 2.1 with regard to representation by the Town Council. Although 2 Elected Members had been nominated to serve on this group, their attendance was not always possible due to Council commitments. With regard to their wish for reports to be provided to them in advance of their meetings as to which issues Seaham Town Council was addressing, the Destination Seaham group be advised that such information was always available within the agendas and minutes on the Town Council's website.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) The minutes of the last meeting of the above Group which met on 17th September 2015, be noted.
- (ii) Destination Seaham be advised of the availability of agendas and minutes from the Town Council's website should they wish to know the activities of the Town Council.

**10. PRESS OPPORTUNITIES**

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