

## **MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE HELD ON 13TH JANUARY, 2015**

Present: Councillor Mrs J A Bell (Chair) and  
Councillors B Allen, Mrs B E Allen,  
Mrs M Baird, E Bell, B Burn Jnr,  
Mrs H Cahill, S Cudlip, Mrs S Forster,  
R Meir, Miss S Morrison, N R Page, I Paul,  
K Shaw, C Snowball, R Whitehead

Apologies: Councillors B Taylor, K Younger

Observers: Councillor Mrs G Bleasdale, Mrs W Berry

*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 MEETING HELD ON 2ND DECEMBER, 2014**

RECOMMENDED the Minutes of these meetings, copies of which had been previously printed and circulated to each Member, be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman

### **3. TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS ISSUES**

#### **a) Neighbourhood Services – Highways**

RECOMMENDED the weekly updates provided by Durham County Council in relation to Highway Services for the weeks of 8th and 15th December 2014 and 12th January, 2015, be noted.

### **4. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

#### **a) Pollution of Coastal Waters**

The Committee considered various items of correspondence received from Mr Bob Latimer in relation to the application by the Coal Authority to discharge from Whitburn mine. In discussion it was felt that a letter of appreciation for Mr Latimer's continuing efforts to resolve this issue, be sent on behalf of the Town Council.

RECOMMENDED the Council send a letter of thanks to Mr Latimer for his continuing support with this issue.

5. **GENERAL ISSUES**

a) **Neighbourhood Protection Team Update**

RECOMMENDED the November 2014 edition of the Neighbourhood Protection Team Update published by Durham County Council for the Seaham area, be noted.

b) **Police & Crime Commissioner Consultation Event**

The Committee considered an invitation received from the Police & Crime Commissioner to attend a consultation event at County Hall, Durham on Friday 30th January, 2015 at 2.30pm. In discussion it was felt that the Town Council should have a large representation at this event.

RECOMMENDED this event be available to any Councillor who wished to attend this event be authorised to do so.

c) **Training Opportunity for Local Residents – Funded through Durham Police and Crime Commissioner**

The Committee considered a communication from Durham County Council which provided details of a free training opportunity, funded by the office of the Durham PCC to take place on 22nd January, 2015 at a local venue yet to be determined.

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.

6. **PLANNING ISSUES**

a) **Monthly List**

RECOMMENDED that the planning application referred to all Councillors since the last meeting, namely 5326 as circulated, be noted.

b) **Planning Application –Caravan and Camping Site Proposal**

The Committee was advised that it was intended to invite Mr John Noble to the next meeting to provide Members with an update on his proposal for a caravan and camping site within Seaham.

RECOMMENDED the Council extend an invitation to Mr Noble to attend the next meeting of this Committee to discuss his proposal for a caravan and camping site within Seaham.

**7. RISK ASSESSMENTS – PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

The Council was reminded of the requirement as part of the corporate governance processes for risk assessments to be undertaken in relation to various activities. At regular intervals Members had been provided with reports on progress made in this area and the Committee was advised of the process involved in carrying out initial assessments made of risks in a range of planning and environmental activities. The Committee noted the process followed in assessing the risks.

RECOMMENDED the Council formally agree to accept the risk assessments covering the various items now reported.

**8. PRESS OPPORTUNITIES**

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

**9. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE**

**a) Dog Fouling**

A number of complaints had been made with regard to the level of dog fouling that was taking place in Dawdon and particularly all along Theresa Street to Green Drive and also on the football pitch.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.