

## **MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE HELD ON 6TH OCTOBER, 2015**

Present: Councillor Mrs B E Allen (Chair) and  
B Allen, Mrs M Baird, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell,  
B Burn Snr, B Burn Jnr, S Cudlip, R Meir,  
Miss S Morrison, K Shaw, C Snowball,  
B Taylor, R Whitehead, K Younger

Apologies: Councillors Mrs H Cahill, Mrs S Forster,  
I Paul

Observer: Councillor Mrs G Bleasdale

*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 8TH SEPTEMBER, 2015**

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 Neighbourhood Services Highways Report for weeks commencing 14th and 21st September, 2015 issued by Durham County Council, be noted.

#### **b) Temporary Road Closure – Tempest Road/Side North Road/ Rear North Terrace/Side Tempest Road, Seaham**

RECOMMENDED the Council note the Order made under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984 to temporarily close to vehicular traffic two sections of the above roads for a period of up to 2 weeks at each location from 8 am on 28th September, 2015 to allow replacement gas main works to be undertaken.

#### **4. GENERAL ISSUES**

##### **a) Seaham Pier Refurbishment Update**

Pursuant to initial discussion at a previous meeting of the full Council when clarification was sought with regard to whether public access would be available following completion of the refurbishment works. An approach had subsequently been made to Durham County Council who clarified that there were no plans to grant public access to the pier.

In discussion Members expressed concern in relation to a recent media article which stated that additional funding had been allocated to the marina and again the Town Council had not been made aware of this process. There was some uncertainty with regard to how this funding was to be used and clarification was to be sought. In addition the County Council should be asked again to keep the Town Council informed of any issues concerning Seaham.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) A letter be sent to Durham County Council to convey the concerns of Seaham Town Council for the lack of communication in respect of issues that may have a major impact on the town.
- (ii) The Town Clerk seek clarification from Durham County Council with regard to how the additional funding allocated to the marina was to be utilised and report back to Members.

#### **5. PLANNING ISSUES**

##### **5.1 Monthly List**

The Committee considered the list of planning applications since the last meeting and queried application no. 5371 submitted by East Durham Heritage for erection of a sculpture near to the lifeboat house. The Town Clerk passed around a sketch of the sculpture and elaborated on its proposed location.

RECOMMENDED that the list of planning applications referred to all Councillors since the last meeting, namely 5368 to 5372 as circulated be noted.

##### **5.2 Local School Artwork**

A Member reported that local school children had been asked by Northern Rail to undertake an art project for display with their consent on their

property. The artwork selected is to be unveiled at Seaham Railway Station on Thursday, 8th October, 2015, at 11 am and the Mayor has been invited to attend.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

**6. PRESS OPPORTUNITIES**

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