

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15TH NOVEMBER, 2016

Present: The Mayor, Councillor Miss S Morrison (Presiding) and Councillors, R Arthur, Mrs G Bleasdale, B Burn (Snr), S Cudlip, Mrs S Forster, R Meir, N Page, I Paul, C Snowball, R Whitehead,

Apologies: Councillors, B Allen, Mrs B E Allen, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, B Taylor, K Younger.

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. OPEN SESSION

A Member questioned whether if a member of the public came in late after the 7.30pm start time and the business of the meeting had progressed to a following item whether they would still have the opportunity to address the meeting. The Member also questioned the usual wording of the Open Session in the minutes. In discussion it was felt that the usual wording was ambiguous and it was suggested that for the future that the minute should read:

'In accordance with established policy the Council provided the opportunity at the beginning of the meeting for a 15 minute session but no members of the public were present, and therefore proceeded with their normal business and at the end of that business no member of the public had attended and as a result of that it was the end of that particular item'.

It was further stated that this had been usual practice in order to expedite business.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) The wording for future meetings where no members of the public attend for the open session are recorded in the minutes as follows:

'In accordance with established policy the Council provided the opportunity at the beginning of the meeting for a 15 minute session but no members of the public were present, and therefore proceeded with their normal business and at the end of that business no member of the public had attended and as a result of that it was the end of that particular item'.

- (ii) If a member of the public did attend the meeting late then they would be heard at an opportune time within the meeting and that the amendment will be made to the wording of this item in the minutes for this meeting and future minutes of the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING OF SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 18TH OCTOBER, 2016

RESOLVED the Minutes of this meeting, a copy of which had been previously printed and circulated to each Member, be approved, and they be signed as a correct record by the Mayor.

4. LETTER TO COUNCILLOR B TAYLOR

RESOLVED the Council endorse the instruction given at the last meeting of Full Council held on Tuesday 18th October, 2016 to send a letter to Councillor Taylor.

5. CHANGE OF DATE FOR FULL COUNCIL MEETING ON 16TH DECEMBER

RESOLVED that the meeting be moved to Tuesday 13th December, 2016 and to the relevant Tuesday in 2017 and for future years.

6. REPORTS OF SERVICE COMMITTEES

RESOLVED that the reports of the following Committees, copies of which had been previously printed and circulated to each Member, be approved:

- a) Report of Arts and Information Committee held on 25th October, 2016; subject to a Member stating that the Council had received a great presentation from the Remember Them Campaign and also a representation from the Seaham Branch of The Royal British Legion. A number of Members have expressed that the parade this year was excellent and was very well organised and also the time taken by the Remember Them Campaign to paint all of the pebbles for the poppy. The Pebble Poppy has received national publicity which has put Seaham firmly on the map. Another Member also stated that Town Council staff should also be thanked for all of their hard work.
- b) Report of Parks and Events Committee held on 25th October, 2016.
- c) Report of Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 1st November, 2016.
- d) Report of Planning and Environmental Committee held on 1st November, 2016; subject to a Member requesting further information on the removal of street lights the Town Clerk will furnish the Member with the information which was provided at the meeting.
- e) Report of Clerks Advisory Sub-Committee held on 1st November, 2016.

7. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

It was formally proposed by a Member that as no members of the public had attended the meeting that the meeting could now be formally closed and that should be appropriately recorded in the minutes.

RESOLVED that the wording for the closure of future meetings, where no members of the public attend, be recorded in the minutes as follows:

‘As no members of the public had attended the meeting the meeting could now be formally closed.’