

MINUTES OF THE ARTS AND INFORMATION COMMITTEE HELD ON 1ST MARCH, 2016

Present: Councillor E Bell (Chair) and
Councillors B Allen, Mrs B E Allen,
R Arthur, Mrs J A Bell, Mrs G Bleasdale,
B Burn Snr, B Burn Jnr, S Cudlip,
Mrs S Forster, R Meir, Miss S Morrison,
N R Page, K Shaw, C Snowball.

Apologies: Councillors Mrs H J Cahill, I Paul, B Taylor,
K Younger.

1. CHAIRMAN

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair of this Committee, Councillor E Bell was nominated to take the Chair at this meeting.

(Councillor E Bell 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.

2. 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.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 2ND FEBRUARY, 2016

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.

4. CONFERENCE APPOINTMENTS

In discussion, Members agreed that all efforts should be made to ensure responses to the General Office were provided as quickly as possible so that the highest number of Members were given the opportunity of attending conferences.

RECOMMENDED the list of conference appointments a copy of which had been previously circulated, be approved.

5. CONFERENCES, COURSES AND SEMINARS

a) Visit County Durham Event: Celebrate Tourism in Durham during English Tourism Week 2016

The Committee considered details of the Celebrate Tourism in Durham

during English Tourism Week 2016, arranged by Visit County Durham, a copy of which had been previously circulated. The half day informal networking event was to be held at Seaham Hall Hotel on 10th March, 2016.

RECOMMENDED that any Councillors wishing to attend must contact the General Office no later than Friday 4th March so that Visit County Durham may be informed.

b) Building Personal Resilience Workshop

The Committee considered the details previously circulated, of the half day workshop organised by the North East Regional Employers' Organisation entitled 'Building Personal Resilience' to be held on Wednesday, 18th May, 2016 venue to be confirmed. In discussion, Members suggested the workshop could be held at the Town Hall depending on availability and that NEREO should be made aware of the facilities available here.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) 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.
- (ii) That NEREO be informed of the facilities available at the Town Hall for courses/seminars and that it be suggested to them that the workshop could be held here.

6. NAC NEWSLETTER

RECOMMENDED the Equality and Diversity newsletter dated February 2016 from NAC, be noted and all of the items printed and placed in the Members' library.

7. DRAFT DURHAM TOURISM MANAGEMENT PLAN 2016-2020

RECOMMENDED the draft Tourism Management Plan 2016-2020 from Visit County Durham, be noted.

8. BYRON SCULPTURE

RECOMMENDED the update with regard to the Byron Sculpture issue, be noted.

9. SEAHAM URGENT CARE CENTRE

Members were advised that at the recent meeting of the Adult Health & Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny meeting that a review of all of the urgent care centres, including Seaham is underway and there is to be community consultation. Services are expected to be provided by health centre hubs located in key towns and in line with the needs of the relevant communities. General consensus was that such a hub should be located at Seaham.

Members were also informed that a travel resource centre exists to provide transport for patients to travel to their treatment centre and return home and concerns were raised that this was not widely publicised. Additionally Doctors surgeries also function as urgent care centres and again this doesn't appear to be widely publicised.

Concerns were also raised with regard to the delay in assessment and treatment for mental health issues as it can take anything up to two weeks or more for the assessment and many months for the treatment.

In discussion, Members felt that a representative from the NHS should be requested to attend the Town Council to provide details of the proposals and to obtain feedback and comments.

RECOMMENDED

- (i) That the information provided, be noted.
- (ii) That further details with regard to the consultation be obtained.
- (iii) That Sarah Burns, Director of Commissioning, Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield Commissioning Group be invited to attend a future meeting of the Town Council to discuss the issues raised.

10. EAST DURHAM CREATES

Members were advised that Ms Joanna Linsley and Ms Rebecca Louise Collins of East Durham Creates were about to conduct an initiative from 18th to 20th March, 2016 named "Stolen Voices" to identify choirs/singers for performances with the potential for one taking place in Seaham. Members were reminded that Ms Nicky Locke would be addressing the next Town Promotion and Development Committee on Tuesday 29th March, 2016. In discussion, Members voiced a general concern that as Elected Councillors of Seaham they were often not being informed by East Durham Creates with regard to any initiatives in the town.

- (i) That the information provided, be noted.
- (ii) That Joanna Linsley and/or Rebecca Louise Collins of East Durham Creates be requested to provide details of this initiative and invited to attend a future meeting of the Town Council to inform Members.
- (iii) That East Durham Creates be informed of the extreme displeasure of the Town Council with regard to the lack of advance notice and detailed relevant information on their initiatives/projects and it be requested for this to be rectified immediately.

11. PRESS OPPORTUNITIES

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