

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22ND MARCH, 2016

Present: The Mayor, Councillor B Burn (Jnr) (Presiding) 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), S Cudlip, Mrs S Forster, R Meir, I Paul, K Shaw, C Snowball, B Taylor, R Whitehead, K Younger.

Apologies: Councillors Mrs H J Cahill, Miss S Morrison.

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

In accordance with established policy the Council provided a fifteen minute opportunity for any members of the public to raise questions. During this period no issues were raised.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 23RD FEBRUARY, 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. 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 the Special Clerk's Advisory Sub-Committee held on 24th February, 2016 subject to it being noted that:
 - (i) With regard to item 3,vi(a) a Member was under the impression that the Inspired Facilities grant was no longer available from Sport England and it was agreed that Ms Richardson would be contacted to obtain further information which would be reported back to Councillors;
 - (ii) With regard to item 4, Recommendation (iii) concerning the Sports

Pavillion Rebate Scheme, a Member raised the issue of previously funded improvements to the Dawdon football pavilion and what the implications of the scheme being scrapped would be for the users. On a point of order it was confirmed that the purpose of this meeting is to confirm the minutes of previous Committee meetings held and therefore this matter should be discussed further at the next Parks and Events Committee;

- b) Report of Arts and Information Committee held on 1st March, 2016;
- c) Report of Parks and Events Committee held on 1st March, 2016;
- d) Report of Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 8th March, 2016;
- e) Report of Planning and Environmental Committee held on 8th March, 2016;
- f) Report of the Clerk's Advisory Sub-Committee held on 8th March, 2016;
- g) Report of the Establishment Sub-Committee held on 8th March, 2016;

5. RISK ASSESSMENTS – ANNUAL REVIEW FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2015/16

Pursuant to previous consideration at the recent Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 8th March 2016, the Council was asked to formally approve the annual review of risk assessments in line with Audit requirements.

RESOLVED the annual review of risk assessments previously submitted to the Finance and General Purposes Committee, be formally approved.

6. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED in view of the confidential nature of the next item to be discussed at this meeting, the formal resolution be hereby passed to exclude the press and public from the meeting pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act, 1961.

7. OLDFIELDS ANNUAL REPORT

Pursuant to discussion at the recent Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 8th March 2016, as Mr Oldfield and Mr Wood are unable to attend the Finance and General Purposes Committee until May, they were in attendance at this meeting to report to the Council. The Chair welcomed Mr Bill Oldfield and Mr Peter Wood of Oldfields to the meeting.

Members attention was drawn to a summary report circulated in support of the verbal presentation.

Mr Oldfield thanked the Town Council for the opportunity to attend the meeting and

report to Councillors. He stated how pleased he was with performance of the Town Hall during the first year of trading and that it was looking to be significantly improved in the second year.

Mr Wood then presented his report referencing key figures from the circulated document and these are summarised as follows:

- During 2015 there have been 61 social events plus over 100 non-social uses (fitness classes etc.).
- During 2016 at this point in time there are 114 social events booked and over 100 non-social uses. For comparison, at the same stage in 2015 there were only 26 social bookings.
- The targets for 2016 are 20 weddings, 20 christenings and 20 birthday parties with various other events. As weekends are now predominantly booked focus is being placed on weekday conferences and training courses.
- There are also two large local companies who held their Christmas parties here last year and who have already booked for 2016.
- In 2017 there are 13 weddings booked so far which is again better than the same time last year so uptake and feedback on the venue and quality of the food and service is very good with the Town Hall now being highly regarded as an excellent community asset.
- Targeted social media is playing a key part in advertising the venue and creating interest and bookings and Oldfields also have an industry presence in key national magazines and dedicated websites. New customers such as various training providers and the North East Chamber of Commerce have used the building and such exposure is also expected to create greater interest.
- The need for improvements to the grounds surrounding the Town Hall for photographs and on-building signage was highlighted and is currently under consideration by officers and will be reported back to Members as soon as practicable. Brown road direction signs was also highlighted for consideration and will be researched again with a report back to Members.

In discussion, Members expressed their pleasure that the venue was performing so well and that performance was constantly improving.

RESOLVED the Council accept the report.

8. TERRORIST ATTACKS IN BRUSSELS

As a mark of respect for those who were killed and injured in the terrorist attacks which took place earlier today in Brussels, all present stood in a minutes silence.