

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18TH APRIL, 2017

Present: The Mayor, Councillor Miss S Morrison (Presiding) and Councillors, B Allen, Mrs B E Allen, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, B Burn (Snr), B Burn (Jnr), S Cudlip, Mrs S Forster, R Meir, I Paul, C Snowball, K Younger

Apologies: Councillors R Arthur, Mrs H Cahill, B Taylor

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 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.

3. RECOGNITION OF RETIRING COUNCILLORS

The Mayor stated that for some Members today it will be their last Full Council meeting with Seaham Town Council as they have chosen to stand down at the next election. The Councillors concerned are Councillors Ronnie Meir, Bruce Burn Senior, Bruce Burn Junior, Mrs Margaret Baird, Mrs Helen Cahill and Norman Page. Councillor Bruce Burn Senior is the most experienced and longest serving Member of the Council. It is worth noting that the number of years' service Councillors Burn Senior and Meir have served this Council and the Mayor thanked both Councillors for what they have done for the Town and stated that they will be sadly missed.

It was also noted that Councillor Mrs Helen Cahill although unable to attend often, when she stood for Council she was hopeful that she would have a home posting but unfortunately this did not turn out to be the case. It was agreed that Councillor Cahill should be acknowledged and thanked for giving her life to public service and the Council will be sad to see her stand down.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Bruce Burn Junior for bringing new innovative ideas to move the Council forward.

Every Member has brought something different to the Council and have all made a contribution. The Mayor thanked each of the Members standing down.

The Leader stated that it has been a pleasure to have people like Bruce Burn Senior around to have informal chats with and listen to his advice from experience gained from a number of years' service. Ronnie Meir a man of the people who keeps the Council informed of the feelings of the members of the public. Helen Cahill who is still serving her country overseas. Margaret Baird another people person who has contributed over the years and Bruce Burn Junior who has brought different dimensions and different thought processes to the diversity of this Council. He has helped to embrace different areas which is the whole purpose of the Council, to have different ideas, thrash them out and come to a consensus. Returning to Bruce Burn Senior and Ronnie Meir the Leader gave them a personal thank you for their limitless advice and experience.

A Member stated that recognition should be given to the families of the Members who often don't see a lot of their families due to the personal time they give up and the work they carry out for public service. The Member especially noted this to be the case for Councillor Cahill who is currently serving on active duty.

A Member stated she joined the Town Council 17 years ago and was very naive to what was expected of her. She personally thanked Councillors Meir and Burn for sharing their experience with her and offering her their support right from the beginning.

Councillor Bruce Burn Senior stated he has been a Councillor for many years including the Urban Council, District Council and the Town Council. He stated he was trained by the County Council in Civil Defence and he served as a Civil Defence Instructor. Civil Defence ceased in the 1960's and Councillor Burn then joined the Coastguards and served for 22 years and received the Queens Medal for Long Service. He was also Secretary for the GMB and also trained as a Youth Leader which he did for 16 years. Councillor Burn served on the District Council and served a year as the Chair. Councillor Burn thanked all Members for their kind words and congratulations.

4. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING OF SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 21st MARCH, 2017**

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.

5. **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 Town Promotion and Development Committee held on 28th March, 2017.

- b) Report of Arts and Information Committee held on 28th March, 2017.
- c) Report of Parks and Events Committee held on 28th March, 2017.
- d) Report of Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 4th April, 2017.
- e) Report of Planning and Environmental Committee held on 4th April, 2017.
- f) Report of Twinning Committee held on 4th April, 2017.