

## **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21ST MARCH, 2017**

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

Apologies: Councillors 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. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING OF SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 21st FEBRUARY, 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.

### **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 Arts and Information Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2017.
- b) Report of Parks and Events Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2017.
- c) Report of Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 7th March, 2017 subject to a Member raising the issue of rumours circulating around Seaham that the Town Council are paying a Tree Surgeon £50,000 per year and that Town Councillors are being paid £14,000 per year.

It was noted that both of these rumours were in fact false information. The Council has not paid anyone £50,000 per year to cut trees and Town Councillors do not receive £14,000 per year.

A Member stated that he would like the Council to commend the Finance Officer and relevant staff for securing excellent levels of assurance in financial management which all Members were in agreement with. The assurance is what members of the public require that all of Seaham Town Council's monies are properly managed and that there is no mismanagement or misconduct and that proper accountability and transparency are clearly demonstrated in Council minutes.

- d) Report of Planning and Environmental Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 subject to a Member raising the issue of the removal of the street lighting at George Elmy Lifeboat Way. Members had previously considered correspondence from Mr Kevin Robson of Durham County Council and the Town Council had strongly objected to the removal of the lights. The member questioned if there had been any further information with regards to this item. It was noted that Durham County Council had informed the Town Council that the removal of the street lighting was going ahead as it was their policy to do so.
- e) Report of Clerk's Advisory Sub-Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2017.
- f) Report of Establishment Sub-Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2017.

## **5. RISK ASSESSMENTS – ANNUAL REVIEW FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2016/17**

Pursuant to previous consideration at the recent Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017, 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.