

MINUTES OF THE ARTS AND INFORMATION COMMITTEE HELD ON 23RD MAY, 2017

Present: Councillor Mrs J A Bell (Chair) and
Councillors, Mrs B E Allen, E Bell,
Mrs G Bleasdale, Mrs K Brace,
S P Colborn, S Cudlip, Mrs V Cummings,
Mrs S Forster, Ms R M Gratton,
G N Hepworth, Mrs L Kennedy, K Shaw,
T Shepherd, B Taylor, R Whitehead,
Miss L Willis

Apologies: Councillor R Arthur, D Cummings,
Mrs S Pratt

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF ARTS AND INFORMATION COMMITTEE FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

RECOMMENDED Councillor Mrs J A Bell be appointed Chair of this Committee for the ensuing year.

(Councillor Mrs J A 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. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR OF ARTS AND INFORMATION COMMITTEE FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

RECOMMENDED Councillor R Whitehead be appointed Vice-Chair of this Committee for the ensuing year.

3. 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.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 25th APRIL, 2017

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.

5. CONFERENCE APPOINTMENTS

A Member stated that in the interest of fairness the Deputy Town Clerk and the Administration Assistant carry out a draw of Councillors names for the new conference rotas. It was also noted that when a Councillor attends a conference they will then not be eligible to attend the next conference available.

RECOMMENDED that:

- (i) The Deputy Town Clerk and Administration Assistant carry out a draw of Councillors names for the new conference rotas attendance list.
- (ii) Once Councillors have attended a conference they will not be eligible to attend the next conference available.

6. CONFERENCES, COURSES AND SEMINARS

a) SLCC Northern Regional Training Seminar

The Northern Regional Training Seminar of the Society of Local Council Clerks is to be held in Sedgefield on Wednesday, 19th July, 2017 for which the Town Clerk requested approval to attend.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk attend the Northern Regional Training Seminar as part of his continued professional development.

b) New Councillor & Chairmanship Training

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk arranges New Councillor Training & Chairmanship Training to take place on an evening at the Town Hall. Members should contact the Deputy Town Clerk directly if they are interested in attending the training.

c) NEREO – Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 – Refresher Training

A half day refresher training course on the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is taking place on Wednesday 21st June, 2017 at Gateshead Civic Centre. The Deputy Town Clerk requests approval to attend the training course.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk attends the Freedom of Information Act 2000 refresher training course.

7. EAST DURHAM AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP

Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing Priority Group – 3rd March, 2017

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

8. WELCOME TO DURHAM VOICE

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

9. DESTINATION SEAHAM

A Member raised the issue of Asda trolleys which had been discussed at the Destination Seaham meeting and the fact that they are being left in various places across the Town. It was noted that Asda have been approached on many occasions about the issue.

Members agreed that a letter should be sent to Asda explaining about the detriment to the environment and the need for them to deal with this issue and collect the trolleys when they have been reported. The letter should contain the need for a response from Asda on what action they intend to take.

RECOMMENDED that:

- (i) The minutes of the meeting of the Group which met on 27th April 2017, be noted.
- (ii) The Deputy Town Clerk writes to Asda explaining about the detriment to the environment and the need for them to deal with this issue and collect the trolleys when they have been reported. The letter should contain the need for a response from Asda on what action they intend to take.

10. PRESS OPPORTUNITIES

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