

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 19TH MAY, 2017

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

Apologies: Councillor B Taylor

Prior to commencement of the meeting the Chair advised members of the Council 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. CHAIRMAN

Councillor Miss Sue Morrison welcomed everyone to the meeting. Councillor Morrison referred to the previous long serving Members Colin Snowball, Ken Younger and Brian Allen who between them had almost 50 years service. They would attend meetings two or three times per week when there was no participation allowance they attended for the love of Seaham which everyone can see today. Councillor Morrison stated she wanted to mention some of their legacys such as the Town Park which is actually a destination park as people come from far and wide to visit the park as it is so nice. There are sporting facilities in the Town Park such as Red Star Football Ground, Cricket Club and Rugby Club and the Town Council are developing similar facilities at Dawdon Park so significant progress has been made in the sporting arena.

In terms of community activities the Town Council now has the Town Hall which is a wonderful building. People criticise the building but what they do not realise is that it provides a community facility, it provides an income which covers not only the interest on the loan but also the running costs. It allows members of our community to have a safe and comfortable place to conduct their activities.

The Town Council also owns the Terrace Green which is available for a lot of activities. Things have moved on a lot in the last 30 years and Councillor Miss Morrison stated she is very proud of that and she is sure that all of the previous Councillors are also very proud.

Councillor Miss Morrison stated that she has been very proud to represent this town as a Councillor and the Mayor, it's a wonderful town. She has been very proud to represent many sporting and community groups in their activities where she has met many young people as well as older people where she has attended two 100th birthday parties. She

noted that when she has attended the birthday parties you can tell how much the Mayor is appreciated in the town and how much it means to people when you take the time out of your life to go and make a difference to them. She has visited the fittest sporting users and also disabled members of the public and stated that it had been an absolute pleasure to do that. Councillor Miss Morrison stated that she was delighted to raise £10,000 for the Mayors Charity Fund which she has distributed to community organisations. The organisations work very hard and they deserved every penny they got and it will be used wisely. However she stated it wasn't easy and wanted to thank everyone who helped her to achieve this in particular family, friends and fellow Councillors who donated prizes, supported the Mayors events and sold raffle tickets.

Councillor Miss Morrison stated she had one last very big thank you to make to her partner Steve Greenhalgh who isn't very political but is very much a community animal. He has supported Councillor Miss Morrison in everything she has done. He has been there offering support throughout. Councillor Miss Morrison then presented Mr Greenhalgh with a personal gift for his support.

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. ELECTION OF MAYOR OF SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

Councillor E Bell stated that Councillor Mrs Forster has been a stalwart of Seaham for a number of years and is involved in many community and charity groups. She has performed her role as Deputy Mayor over the last year with great dignity and respect in supporting the Mayor. Councillor Mrs Forster will continue in that vein as the Mayor and will develop the good name of Seaham Town Council within Seaham Town. Councillor E Bell stated that he has no hesitation in nominating Councillor Mrs Forster as the Mayor.

Only one nomination was received and seconded for Councillor Mrs Forster to become this year's Mayor and the passing over of the Chain of Office commenced. However, after the Chain of Office had been passed over to the new Mayor a Member insisted that there should still be a vote. For clarity a vote was allowed by the Chair and 11 Members voted for her, 4 against and 5 abstained.

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs S Forster be elected as Mayor of Seaham Town Council for the ensuing year.

4. SIGNING OF THE DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY THE NEWLY ELECTED MAYOR

Councillor Mrs S Forster then signed the declaration of Acceptance of Office of Mayor for Seaham Town Council in the presence of the Deputy Town Clerk.

5. HANDOVER OF CHAINS OF OFFICE TO NEW MAYOR AND CONSORT

The Chain of Office was then handed over to the new Mayor and the Chain of Office was presented to the Mayor's Consort. Councillor Miss S Morrison then vacated the chair.

(The new Mayor, Councillor Mrs S Forster then Presided)

6. PRESENTATION OF GIFT TO RETIRING MAYOR AND CONSORT

The new Mayor wished everyone a very warm welcome, Councillors, relatives, staff and friends.

Councillor Mrs Forster acknowledged the great honour which had been bestowed upon her in voting her to the office of Mayor and stated that she is also aware that it will be hard work. The Mayor's job is an important one carried out by an ordinary person. Councillor Mrs Forster stated that her career was in finance and she has served Seaham for most of her life in community centres, churches, schools and Town, District and County Councils and also assisted to set up a group named 'Friends' which caters for the lonely. The group is still running after more than 20 years. Councillor Mrs Forster stated that her thanks go to everyone and she will do the best she can to follow the traditions of the Office of Mayor with honour, dignity and respect. She will represent the Town and speak up for community groups and all residents at all times.

Councillors Mrs Forster stated she intends to meet every child in Seaham, her message to them is 'anyone can do anything if they know what they want and work at it'.

Councillor Mrs Forster thanked last year's Mayor Councillor Miss Sue Morrison on everyone's behalf for a job well done. Councillor Miss Morrison worked very hard and raised a substantial amount of money for 13 charities and good causes she has been an example to us all.

The new Mayor presented the retiring Mayor Councillor Miss Morrison with a gift.

7. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

Only one nomination was received and seconded for Councillor Mrs J A Bell to become this year's Deputy Mayor. A vote was cast 10 Members for and 5 Members abstained.

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs J A Bell be elected as Deputy Mayor of Seaham Town Council for the ensuing year.

8. HANDOVER OF CHAIN OF OFFICE TO NEW DEPUTY MAYOR

The Mayor then presented the Deputy Mayor with her Badge of Office.

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

RESOLVED that 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 Mayor.

10. MINUTES OF SERVICE COMMITTEES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the following Committees, copies of which had been previously printed and circulated to each Member, be approved:

- a) Minutes of Arts and Information Committee held on 25th April, 2017;
- b) Minutes of Parks and Events Committee held on 25th April, 2017;
- c) Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 2nd May, 2017;
- e) Minutes of Planning and Environmental Committee held on 2nd May, 2017.

11. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

RESOLVED that there has been joint discussions between both of the parties on parity and equal representation on all of the Committees and Sub-Committees and that the composition of all Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Parties be as follows for the ensuing year.

Arts and Information Committee – 21 Members, namely:

MEMBERS: Mrs B E Allen, R Arthur, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, Mrs G Bleasdale, Mrs K Brace, S P Colborn, S Cudlip, D Cummings, Mrs V Cummings, Mrs S Forster, Ms R M Gratton, G N Hepworth, Mrs L Kennedy, D McKenna, Mrs S Pratt, K Shaw, T Shepherd, B Taylor, R Whitehead, Miss L Willis.

Parks and Events Committee – 21 Members, namely:

MEMBERS: Mrs B E Allen, R Arthur, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, Mrs G Bleasdale, Mrs K Brace, S P Colborn, S Cudlip, D Cummings, Mrs V Cummings, Mrs S Forster, Ms R M Gratton, G N Hepworth, Mrs L Kennedy, D McKenna, Mrs S Pratt, K Shaw, T Shepherd, B Taylor, R Whitehead, Miss L Willis.

Finance and General Purposes Committee – 21 Members, namely:

MEMBERS: Mrs B E Allen, R Arthur, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, Mrs G Bleasdale, Mrs K Brace, S P Colborn, S Cudlip, D Cummings, Mrs V Cummings, Mrs S Forster, Ms R M Gratton, G N Hepworth, Mrs L Kennedy, D McKenna, Mrs S Pratt, K Shaw, T Shepherd, B Taylor, R Whitehead, Miss L Willis.

Planning and Environmental Committee – 20 Members, namely:

MEMBERS: Mrs B E Allen, R Arthur, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, Mrs K Brace, S P Colborn, S Cudlip, D Cummings, Mrs V Cummings, Mrs S Forster, Ms R M Gratton, G N Hepworth, Mrs L Kennedy, D McKenna, Mrs S Pratt, K Shaw, T Shepherd, B Taylor, R Whitehead, Miss L Willis.

Twinning Committee – 21 Members, namely:

MEMBERS: Mrs B E Allen, R Arthur, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, Mrs G Bleasdale, Mrs K Brace, S P Colborn, S Cudlip, D Cummings, Mrs V Cummings, Mrs S Forster, Ms R M Gratton, G N Hepworth, Mrs L Kennedy, D McKenna, Mrs S Pratt, K Shaw, T Shepherd, B Taylor, R Whitehead, Miss L Willis.

Town Promotion and Development - 21 Members, namely:

MEMBERS: Mrs B E Allen, R Arthur, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, Mrs G Bleasdale, Mrs K Brace, S P Colborn, S Cudlip, D Cummings, Mrs V Cummings, Mrs S Forster, Ms R M Gratton, G N Hepworth, Mrs L Kennedy, D McKenna, Mrs S Pratt, K Shaw, T Shepherd, B Taylor, R Whitehead, Miss L Willis.

Establishment Sub-Committee – 12 Members, namely:

MEMBERS: Mrs B E Allen, R Arthur, E Bell, Mrs G Bleasdale, Mrs K Brace, S Colborn, S Cudlip, Mrs V Cummings, G N Hepworth, K Shaw, T Shepherd, Miss L Willis.

Clerk's Advisory Sub-Committee – 14 Members, namely:

MEMBERS: R Arthur, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, Mrs K Brace, S Colborn, S Cudlip, Mrs V Cummings, Mrs S Forster, G N Hepworth, Mrs L Kennedy, K Shaw, T Shepherd, B Taylor, Miss L Willis.

Allotments Sub-Committee – 8 Members, namely

MEMBERS: Mrs B E Allen, E Bell, S Colborn, Mrs G Bleasdale, G N Hepworth, T Shepherd, B Taylor, Miss L Willis.

Staff Disciplinary Panel - 6 Members

MEMBERS: The panel to comprise any 3 Councillors from the following Members:

Mrs J Bell, Mrs S Forster, D McKenna, B Taylor (+ 2 Seaham Community Party)

Computer Sub-Committee – 12 Members

MEMBERS: R Arthur, Mrs K Brace, S Colborn, G Hepworth, B Taylor, Miss L Willis
There will be 6 Members added by the Labour Group

Joint Staff Consultative Committee

Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Full Committees – not Sub-Committees or Working Parties – 8 in total

Mayor's Advisory Sub-Committee – 8 Members, namely:

MEMBERS: R Arthur, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, Mrs S Forster, B Taylor, Miss L Willis, Town Clerk, Mayors Secretary

Budget Sub-Committee – 8 Members, namely:

MEMBERS: R Arthur, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, S Colborn, S Cudlip, S Forster, B Taylor, Miss L Willis

Town Hall Working Party – 8 Members

MEMBERS: R Arthur, Mrs B E Allen, E Bell, S Cudlip, Mrs S Forster,
G N Hepworth, B Taylor, Miss L Willis.

Dawdon Park Working Party – 10 Members, namely:

MEMBERS: R Arthur, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, S Cudlip, S Forster, G Hepworth,
B Taylor, Miss L Willis, Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk

Special Note - Agendas for Dawdon Working Party to be sent out to all Members of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for information purposes.

12. **APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

RESOLVED that the appointments to Outside Bodies be as follows for the ensuing year.

- a) **SEAHAM YOUTH CENTRE**
1 Representative **E Bell**
- b) **EASTLEA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**
1 Representative **S Colborn**
- c) **SEAHAM CADET AIR TRAINING CORP**
1 Representative **D McKenna**
- d) **EAST DURHAM HERITAGE COAST PARTNERSHIP**
1 Representative **R Arthur**
- e) **COASTLINERS**
1 Representative **B Taylor**
- f) **EAST DURHAM AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP FORUM**
1 Representative **B Taylor**
- g) **SEAHAM AND DISTRICT SCOUTS ASSOCIATION**
1 Representative **D McKenna**
- h) **COMMUNITY HEALTH NETWORK**
1 Representative **Mrs S Forster**
- i) **COUNTY DURHAM LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**
1 Representative **R Arthur**
- j) **DESTINATION SEAHAM**
2 Representatives **S Colborn**
1 x Labour Party
- k) **SEAHAM MARINA**
1 Representative **K Shaw**

TO RESOLVE THAT, IN RESPECT OF ANY OF THE AFOREMENTIONED APPOINTMENTS INVOLVING ATTENDANCE BY THE MEMBER CONCERNED OUTSIDE THE TOWN'S BOUNDARIES, THIS SHOULD RANK AS AN APPROVED DUTY FOR PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCES.

13. FORMAL ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

RESOLVED that the Council passed a resolution to formally adopt the General Power of Competence.

14. BANK MANDATE – DEPARTING COUNCILLORS

RESOLVED that the bank are informed of the departure of the following Councillors B Allen, Mrs M R Baird, B Burn (Snr), B Burn (Jnr), Mrs H J Cahill, R Meir, Miss S Morrison, N R Page, I Paul, C Snowball, K W Younger.

15. BANK MANDATE – RESOLUTIONS

RESOLVED that the resolution to pass the Certified Copy of Resolutions detailed in Section 2 of the Bank Mandate – Declaration.

16. PUBLIC ATTENDANCE – OPEN SESSION

A Member raised the issue with regard to the 15 minute open session which is held at the beginning of Full Council meetings. Seaham Community Party felt that 15 minutes was not an appropriate period of time for members of the public to be able to question Councillors and that this time period should be extended and that this could also be added to the end of the meeting rather than the beginning and the time extending to at least 45 minutes to an hour to allow a thorough hearing.

A Member stated that this was not an agenda item on the Council Summons and would normally be deferred to an appropriate Committee for discussion and debate.

RESOLVED that this item be deferred to an appropriate Committee meeting to be discussed and debated further.