

## **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2017**

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

Apologies: Councillors Mrs B E Allen, R Arthur, Ms S Pratt, K Shaw, 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**

A Member requested that all Members stand to remember young Bradley Lowery who sadly passed away on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 and also the members of this community who have passed away due to his horrible disease and also to keep in the forefront of everyone's minds the young boy at Newcastle who is still battling this disease.

Members then stood for 1 minute's silence.

In accordance with established policy the Council provided the opportunity at the beginning of the meeting for a 15 minute session.

A Member of the public asked if Seaham Town Council will support the Teaching Assistants with their dispute. A Member stated that one faculty could not be supported alone all staff would need to be supported as all teaching staff are valued. It's not just about the Teaching Assistants it's about all of the staff who work at schools. Other teaching staff are in dispute it just isn't reported as much as the Teaching Assistant's. Another Member stated that this is a Parish Council and doesn't feel it would be right for the Town Council to vote on this. This is a County Council issue and should be taken to them.

A Member stated that there are Teaching Assistants who are in the Town Council's constituency and felt it was pertinent to raise the matter and to give them the Town Council's support. The Member moved that a vote should take place and names are taken. Another Member stated that it is highly irregular to carry this out at this meeting when a Member has tabled a request from a member of the public to do

this. The Member stated that Seaham Town Council value everyone who works for Seaham and Durham County Council and not just Teaching Assistants but this does include Teaching Assistants and it is important that the Town Council do this and that it is recognised that they are valuable members of this community.

A Member stated that the question was raised and resolutions which are moved without notice, ie has not been on the agenda of the Council, there are very clear instructions in the Town Council's Standing Orders which provide for resolutions like this which are moved without notice to be dealt with in a particular manner and there are only certain resolutions which can be dealt with exceptionally like the one that has been raised now. The Member read from Standing Order no. 8.1 which states "Resolutions dealing with the following matters may be moved without notice, to appoint a Chair, to correct the minutes, to approve the minutes, to alter the order of business to proceed with the next business, to close or adjourn a debate, to refer a matter to a committee, to appoint to committee or any members thereof, to adopt a report, to authorise the sealing of documents, to amend a resolution, to give leave to withdraw a resolution or an amendment, to extend the time limit for speeches, to exclude the public, to silence or eject from the meeting a member named for misconduct, to invite a member having an interest in the subject matter under debate to remain, to give the consent of the Council where such consent is required by these Standing Orders, to suspend any Standing Order under Order 75". The Member stated that this is clearly a resolution which has come from a member of the public which is supported by some Members which has been moved without prior notice to all Councillors. This should go to an appropriate committee for discussion and consideration. This should happen automatically without any further discussion or the Town Council are not complying with their own Standing Orders.

A Member asked whether there was a new Town Clerk as he was continually being interrupted by another Councillor who is not the Town Clerk. The Member stated if he requires information he will ask the Town Clerk for it.

A Member stated that the regulations are there to be laid down and if a resolution is going to be made he would suggest that Councillors read the Standing Orders first before making a resolution so that Councillors are well within the boundaries. The request the Town Council were asked should go to an appropriate committee for it to be considered.

A Member stated in response to the Councillors remark regarding a new Town Clerk the Member has the same capacity as any other Councillor here. The Member stated he was merely pointing out about what has appeared without warning that the Town Council are provided with prior notice. Members should read these documents as the Standing Orders have to be complied with.

A Member questioned if it is not appropriate for this meeting then which meeting would it be appropriate to discuss the matter further. Members agreed it should be taken to Establishment Sub-Committee.

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that Full Council meetings are not for raising items for discussion and then voting on that discussion. Time needs to be allocated for a discussion and time to collate the correct information which would be held at an

appropriate committee meeting first where more time is allowed for this to happen. Full Council is to ratify all of the committee meeting discussions.

RESOLVED that a discussion regarding the support of the Teaching Assistants be taken to the next available Establishment Sub-Committee.

**3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 13TH JUNE, 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 subject to the Deputy Town Clerk pointed out that the minutes of the Annual Meeting referred to the former Mayor Councillor Miss Sue Morrison who could not be included in the numbers for votes and this did not relate to the current Mayor Councillor Mrs Sonia Forster.

A Member stated that Councillor Miss Sue Morrison is very poorly at present and due to her long service on the Council suggested that the Town Council's good wishes are sent to her on behalf of all elected Members and all staff.

RESOLVED that the Town Council's good wishes should be sent to Councillor Miss Sue Morrison.

**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 Town Promotion and Development Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2017.
- b) Report of Arts and Information Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2017.
- c) Report of Parks and Events Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 subject to a Member raising the attendance at the meeting of Ms Harland, Creative Youth Opportunities to discuss the art project for the shutters in Church Street and not noticing this discussion being included in the minutes. The Deputy Town Clerk pointed out that this was included in the minutes in the last paragraph on page 9328.
- d) Report of Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 subject to a Member raising Amendment to Policies on item 10 which relates to the Social Media Policy. This was ratified at a meeting and after today ratified at a Full Council meeting. This means everyone has to abide to the Social Media Policy to whatever they are dealing with and cannot publish matters without referring to the Social Media Policy. A Member requested that the amended Social Media Policy is re-sent to all Councillors with a covering letter from the Deputy Town Clerk drawing everyone's attention to this new amendment.

- e) Report of Planning and Environmental Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2017.
- f) Report of the Establishment Committee held on the 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2017

**5. THE MAYORS CHARITY & ARMED FORCES DAY**

The Mayor asked if Members would attend her 1940's Night to help raise funds for her chosen charities. The Mayor also thanked Members for selling tickets on her behalf for the Carnival weekend, and also for the kind donations of raffle prizes.

A Member stated that the Town Council had received a letter of thanks from Councillor Dave McKenna in relation to the Armed Forces Day. The Town Council would like to thank Dave McKenna for his hard work in organising the Armed Forces Day which turned out to be a terrific success and wished him good luck for the future.

**6. RE-SCHEDULED CHAIRMANSHIP TRAINING DATE**

Following the cancellation of the training day the date has been rescheduled to take place on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 6.00-8.30pm.