

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE HELD ON 31ST OCTOBER, 2017

Present: Councillor S Cudlip (Chair),
R Arthur, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell,
S P Colborn, D Cummings,
Mrs V Cummings, Mrs S Forster,
Mrs R M Gratton, G N Hepworth,
Mrs L Kennedy, D McKenna,
K Shaw, T Shepherd, B Taylor,
Miss L Willis.

Observer: Mrs G Bleasdale

Apologies: Councillors Mrs B E Allen, Mrs K Brace,
Mrs S Pratt,

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.

Councillor Mrs G Bleasdale declared an interest and took no further part in the voting thereon.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3RD OCTOBER, 2017

RECOMMENDED the Minutes of these meetings, copies of which had been previously printed and circulated to each Member, be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman

3. TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS ISSUES

a) Neighbourhood Services – Highways

RECOMMENDED the Council accept the Neighbourhood Services Highways reports for 9th October, 2017.

4. PLANNING ISSUES

a) Monthly List

RECOMMENDED the list of planning applications referred to all Councillors since the last meeting, namely 5501 to 5504 as circulated be noted.

b) Planning Application for Junction Upgrade

A Member stated that this application is purely a proposal and nothing has been approved. Members agreed that they would like someone from Durham County Council or Kier to come and discuss the proposal at a meeting and that Seaham Town Council want to be provided with the plans.

Members agreed that a letter should be sent to Durham County Council's Highways Department now to state that Seaham Town Council objects to this proposal.

A Member also stated that Kier had stated previously that they would return to the Town Council to discuss their plans further and answer any queries that may arise. Members agreed that Kier should be invited back to discuss their plans and they could also be questioned about the junction upgrade.

RECOMMENDED that an invitation to a future meeting be sent to Durham County Council and Kier to discuss the proposal and in the interim a letter be sent to Durham County Council's Highways Department stating Seaham Town Council's objection against the proposal.

5. IMPROVED DISABLED ACCESS AT BYRON PLACE

A Member has been working with John Brady, Byron Place Shopping Centre to improve access to the disabled toilet. The work is expected to be completed before Christmas. The Member stated that access to the facilities will be made easier especially for disabled people, mothers with prams and the elderly.

It was suggested that a letter of thanks should be sent to Mr Brady on behalf of the Town Council.

RECOMMENDED that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Brady.

6. CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL TO REMOVE STREET LIGHTS AND OFFER OF SLA

It was noted that Kevin Robson, Durham County Council has stated that he will visit the site. Members noted that they still had the same concerns with regards to people's safety if the lights are removed.

RECOMMENDED that an Officer from Durham County Council should be invited to a meeting of this Committee to discuss the rationale behind removing the lights.

7. PRESS OPPORTUNITIES

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