

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14TH NOVEMBER, 2017

Present: The Mayor, Councillor
Mrs S Forster (Presiding) and Councillors
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 R M Gratton,
G N Hepworth, Mrs L Kennedy,
D McKenna, T Shepherd, R Whitehead,
Miss L Willis

Apologies: Councillors Mrs B E Allen, Mrs 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

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. TO CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 17TH OCTOBER, 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 the Arts and Information Committee held on 24th October, 2017
- b) Report of Parks and Events Committee held on 24th October, 2017, subject to the derogatory comments that a Councillor made to a member of the public on the night of the meeting should be minuted.

Post Meeting Note: The comments have now been added to the minutes.

On page 9397 fourth paragraph a Councillor asked a question at the meeting about qualified staff. He recalls Mr Consitt stating the lady had 30 years' experience but does not recall Mr Consitt stating that the lady was qualified. Mr Consitt did not give a direct answer to the question. Post Meeting Note: The word qualified has been removed from the minutes.

Page 9398 first paragraph a Member did not recall it being said that if grazing could not be found for the horses on the site then the ultimate responsibility would fall back to the Town Council. The Deputy Town Clerk to investigate if this comment was made. Post meeting Note: This comment was made by Mr Consitt in the question and answer session.

Page 9401 a Member questioned the leaflet Countywide which is distributed from Durham County Council and noted there was nothing in the last publication about Seaham Town Council winning awards. The Deputy Town Clerk will contact them to discuss the awards being published. Page 9402 the Civic Leeks & Vegetable Show, the minutes state the Deputy Town Clerk will provide a report on the financial viability of holding this event. A Member stated that it could be run by the Associations rather than the Town Council having to fund this and the Deputy Town Clerk should contact the Associations to see if there is any interest and that the Town Council could support this in other ways other than via financial support. It was noted in the minutes that the Deputy Town Clerk's report would be to see if there was capacity for the Town Council to support this.

- c) Report of Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 31st October, 2017, subject to page 9405 that there was a request for Oldfields to present the Town Council with further information and it was noted that this would be reported to the Town Hall Working Party.
- d) Report of Planning and Environmental Committee held on 31st October, 2017. On page 9407 it mentions having either Kier or Durham County Council to attend the next meeting to discuss the update with regards to the new housing and also the junction upgrade and he felt that it was important for Kier to attend. A Member stated that a member of staff has contacted both Kier and Durham County Council and a representative from both organisations will be in attendance at the next meeting. Members of the public who have raised a complaint with regards to the junction may be given a chance to ask questions. Page 9408 with regards to the street lights a Member questioned whether a representative from Durham County Council was attending the next meeting. The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed he is pursuing DCC to attend the meeting to discuss the street lighting in further detail.
- e) Report of the Clerk's Advisory Sub-Committee held on 31st October, 2017.

5. FOODBANKS IN SEAHAM

A Member stated that the Deputy Town Clerk and staff members have agreed that anyone with may lack transport who wishes to donate any items for the foodbank can leave their donations at the Town Hall and members of the community will come once per week to collect any donations and take them to the foodbank at Dawdon. In doing this we are assured that the people of Seaham in the run up to Christmas will benefit from this. This will only be in the run up to Christmas to ensure the needy will be able to access this and it is hoped that Councillors will support this. A Member suggested that this could be carried on with after Christmas. It was noted that due to the role out of Universal Credit in this area at present people may not have any money for six weeks and it is a particularly bad time of year. Members suggested that it is tried out for six weeks and then it can be reviewed after then. It was noted that Dawdon Church are aware of this.

The Mayor stated that whilst she was attending the Health Forum she had picked up a leaflet from the Primary Care Centre which stated on the 24th November, 2017 10.00-12.00 there will be tea and coffee and advice for local organisations with regards to Universal Credit. The Mayor noted that it is sometimes ten weeks before members of the public receive any money.

RESOLVED that the Town Hall will be used as a collection point for the foodbank for the next six weeks and then this will be reviewed thereon.

6. LETTER FROM THE HIGH SHERIFF

The Mayor stated that she had received a letter from the High Sheriff following her visit to Seaham. She stated that she had a wonderful time in Seaham and is going to return with members of her family.

7. CHINESE DELEGATION

The Mayor informed the Council that there is a delegation from China visiting Seaham on 16th November, 2017. The Mayor has requested that St Marys Church is opened so the dignitaries can visit there as well as other areas of Seaham and they will then be brought to the Town Hall. The Mayor stated she thinks it is a great compliment that people from so far away have requested to visit Seaham.

8. 12TH DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

The Mayor stated that this will be the last meeting of the year. In previous years Members have had refreshments and their partners have been invited to attend also. The Mayor suggested that this year Councillors could hold a Face Supper whereby all Councillors bring in some food which would cost nothing. Members agreed that this was a good idea and partners would also be invited to attend.

RESOLVED that Members would all bring in some items of food for the last meeting of the year.