

## **MINUTES OF THE ARTS AND INFORMATION COMMITTEE HELD ON 30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2018**

Present: Councillor Mrs J Bell (Chair) and  
Councillors Mrs G Bleasdale, K Brace, S P Colborn,  
Ms R M Gratton, G N Hepworth,  
Mrs L Kennedy, D McKenna, T Shepherd,  
K Shaw, B Taylor, Miss L Willis

Apologies: Councillors Mrs B Allen, R Arthur, E Bell,  
S Cudlip, D Cummings, Mrs V Cummings,  
Mrs S Forster, 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.

### **2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 2<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY, 2018**

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.

### **3. CONFERENCES, COURSES AND SEMINARS**

#### **a) NAC – SHARED SERVICES AND RESOURCES IN THE COMMUNITY**

The National Association of Councillors Shared Services and Resources in the Community Conference is due to take place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 at the Park Inn Hotel in York. A Member stated that he felt there was no added value in sharing resources with other local authorities and felt a moratorium on future conferences until the situation with Oldfields is resolved. It was noted that this is a matter for the Finance and General Purposes Committee discuss. It was questioned why this would be a Finance Committee decision when it is on the Arts and Information agenda. It was noted that conference fees is ring-fenced money and if it is not used it would be absorbed back into the budget. If a conference is seen to be beneficial to Councillors training then they should be allowed to attend and the Council should be seen to be developing training. A Member stated that as previously mentioned by the Deputy Town Clerk sharing resources with other Councils of a similar size to this Council does not add any value so therefore suggested that this conference is not attended. A Member stated that this was only the opinion of one Councillor and it should be taken to the vote. A motion was raised to not attend the conference which was seconded.

A unanimous decision was made that this conference should not be attended by Seaham Town Councillors.

A Member proposed that feedback is given to other Members after they have attended a conference. Members noted that this is always given and is attached to the agenda.

RECOMMENDED that:

- (i) this conference should not be attended by Seaham Town Councillors.
- (ii) a moratorium on future attendances at conferences be put in place until the situation with Oldfields is resolved and this should be added to the next Finance and General Purposes Committee for further discussions.

**b) MEMBERS NOT WISHING TO ATTEND CONFERENCES**

Members were requested to contact the office if they do not wish to be invited to attend any future conferences as this will save Officers time.

RECOMMENDED that Members contact the office if they wish to be removed from the conference rota.

**4. PRESS OPPORTUNITIES**

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