

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17TH APRIL, 2018

Present: The Mayor, Councillor Mrs S Forster (Presiding) and Councillors Mrs B E Allen, Mrs J A Bell, Mrs G Bleasdale, Mrs K Brace, S P Colborn, S Cudlip, D Cummings, Mrs V Cummings, G N Hepworth, Mrs L Kennedy, D McKenna, Mrs S Pratt, K Shaw, T Shepherd, B Taylor, Miss L Willis.

Apologies: Councillors E Bell, Ms R M Gratton, R Whitehead.

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 present wished to raise any items and therefore proceeded with their normal business.

3. TO CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 20th MARCH, 2018

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 page 9532 whereby a Member stated that they had been questioned by Parkside Community Centre with regards to whether a grant had been awarded for the forthcoming group visit from Gerlingen. The Administration Assistant confirmed that a BAC's payment of £1000 had been paid to Parkside Community Centre the previous day.

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 Town Promotion and Development Committee held on 27th March, 2018 subject to a Member requesting a letter of thanks should be sent to Mr Brannigan for attending the meeting.

- b) Report of the Arts and Information Committee held on 27th March, 2018.
- c) Report of the Parks and Events Committee held on 27th March, 2018 subject to a Member questioning whether the Deputy Town Clerk had looked into having a wheelchair friendly swing added to the park. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that this would be included in the next Parks Report.
- d) Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 3rd April, 2018.
- e) Report of Planning and Environmental Committee held on 3rd April, 2018.
- f) Report of the Twinning Committee held on 3rd April, 2018.

5. EXCEPTIONAL ITEM

A Member stated that he had a letter signed by two Councillors which stated 'We hereby exercise our right under the Local Government Act, 1972 to requisition an extraordinary meeting of the Full Council for the purpose of discussing the vacancy for the position of Town Clerk of Seaham Town Council'.

RESOLVED that an extraordinary meeting should take place at the rising of the Parks and Events Committee meeting on Tuesday, 24th April, 2018 with a resolution to exclude the press and public.

6. MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

A member of the public questioned whether he could raise an issue and apologised for not knowing the protocol for the open session as he had not previously attended a Council meeting.

The member of the public stated that 11 shops have been burgled in Church Street since Christmas. He noted that the Police have arrested two people but they continue to offend and nothing appears to be happening. These same two people who are committing the crimes are still allowed to live in Seaham. It is also a problem as there are no Police in Seaham at night time to deal with this. A Member stated that Mr Ron Hogg, Police and Crime Commissioner is due to attend a meeting at the Council on the 30th April, 2018 and Members will question him about this at the meeting.

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that the Town Council have placed CCTV in Church Street which the Police regularly request footage from.

Members requested that the local PCSO be invited to the next available meeting to discuss this matter further.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) A PCSO be invited to attend the next Parks & Events Committee meeting to discuss this matter further.

- (ii) That this matter be raised with Ron Hogg, Police and Crime Commissioner at the Special Planning & Environmental meeting due to take place on the 30th April, 2018.