

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 11TH MAY, 2018

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

Apologies: Mrs S Pratt

Prior to commencement of the meeting the Chair advised members of the Council 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. CHAIRMAN

Councillor Mrs Sonia Forster welcomed everyone to the meeting. Councillor Mrs Forster stated that it had been a very busy but fun filled year and that she is very proud of Seaham and how far it has come.

This year Seaham received a Gold Award from Northumbria in Bloom for Best Coastal Resort and a Green Flag Award for Seaham Town Park. The barriers at the bottom of Church Street have finally been removed so that the flow of movement is unhindered. The Council are now working with Durham County Council on a Heritage Lottery Bid for Church Street to be upgraded. The green at St John's Church will have flowers and art work to attract tourists from the sea front up the main street. The Terrace Green is Seaham's focal point and this year new events have been held there Pirates and Princesses, Brass Band events as well as the usual military events and the Carnival.

The Council are looking forward to opening a new Heritage Centre soon and also Dawdon Park Cricket and Football pavilions. The Council encourages all sports football, rugby, cricket, bowls, cycling, walking and gardening.

The Town Hall was a great investment it is very well used as is the playground which now has a ride for disabled children.

The Mayor stated that she has visited every school in Seaham and met every child and shown them a video of Seaham and encouraged the children to own the town and take care of it and mostly the Mayor encouraged the children to know that anyone can do anything you just have to decide what it is and work at it and every time the Mayor placed the chain on a child it brought the message home.

The Mayor also visited all of the old people's homes, nursing homes, disabled homes and the churches and viewed the army, navy and airforce cadets and saw every amateur show. Everyone likes to feel that the Mayor cares which she does and she is fortunate to know many people and has met new people.

This is also a special year as it is 30 years of twinning with Gerlingen and special things are planned in July.

The Mayor stated it has been an honour and a privilege to be the Mayor and stated that she was pleased to say that she had raised £14,200 for the Mayors Charity Fund which she distributed to 17 charities. Some of those people work so hard to help others and they deserve all that can be given.

The Mayor thanked her family and friends and fellow Councillors who donated prizes, supported Mayors events and sold raffle tickets. The Mayor stated her biggest thanks goes to her husband Mr Bob Forster who cares not to be in the limelight but has been a great support he has taken lots of photographs and truly is the Mayors other half.

Mr Bob Forster stated that it has been a very busy two years with Mrs Forster being the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. It has been a lot of hard work which was very tiring and sometimes exhausting but there are upsides that they have met a lot of new people and friends. Mr Forster stated he thought it was wonderful what Mrs Forster had done not only for the money she raised for the charities but the visit from the High Sheriff but as well as leading a delegation from China she has been a great ambassador for Seaham. It has been a privilege to stand as the Mayors consort. Mr Forster also wished whoever was going to be the new Mayor good luck and to take the Mayor and Consorts best wishes with them.

2. 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.

3. ELECTION OF MAYOR OF SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

The Mayor asked if there were any nominations for the Mayor for the ensuing year. A Member nominated Mrs Leanne Kennedy which was seconded.

A Member nominated Councillors Mrs B E Allen which was seconded.

It was agreed that a vote would be required. Councillor Mrs Kennedy received 9 votes and Councillor Mrs Allen received 10 votes. A recount was held as the Acting Town Clerk was uncertain of the original count.

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs B E Allen be elected as Mayor of Seaham Town Council for the ensuing year.

4. **SIGNING OF THE DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY THE NEWLY ELECTED MAYOR**

Councillor Mrs B E Allen then signed the declaration of Acceptance of Office of Mayor for Seaham Town Council in the presence of the Acting Town Clerk.

5. **HANDOVER OF CHAINS OF OFFICE TO NEW MAYOR AND CONSORT**

The Chain of Office was then handed over to the new Mayor and the Chain of Office was presented to the Mayor's Consort. Councillor Mrs S Forster then vacated the chair.

(The new Mayor, Councillor Mrs B E Allen then Presided)

6. **PRESENTATION OF GIFT TO RETIRING MAYOR AND CONSORT**

The new Mayor Mrs B E Allen thanked everyone who voted for her and stated it was a big surprise and that she will carry out the role to the best of her ability as she has in the past. She hoped that everyone would support and help her during this year as there has been no Deputy this year and has gone straight to Mayor. She stated that Councillor Mrs Sonia Forster has done a brilliant job and she couldn't follow that but she will help all of the charities that she can.

The new Mayor Councillor Mrs Allen thanked last year's Mayor Councillor Mrs Sonia Forster and her Consort and presented the retiring Mayor Councillor Mrs Forster with a gift.

7. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR**

Councillor Dave McKenna was nominated and seconded and a second nomination was made for Councillor Miss Linda Willis which was seconded.

A vote took place and there were 9 nominations for Councillor McKenna and 10 votes for Councillor Miss Willis.

RESOLVED that Councillor Miss Linda Willis be elected as Deputy Mayor of Seaham Town Council for the ensuing year.

8. **HANDOVER OF CHAIN OF OFFICE TO NEW DEPUTY MAYOR**

The Mayor then presented the Deputy Mayor with her Badge of Office.

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

RESOLVED that 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 Mayor.

10. MINUTES OF SERVICE COMMITTEES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the following Committees, copies of which had been previously printed and circulated to each Member, be approved:

- a) Minutes of Arts and Information Committee held on 24th April, 2018; subject to Councillor T Shepherd being marked as in attendance but was actually not at the meeting.
- b) Minutes of Parks and Events Committee held on 24th April, 2018; subject to Councillor T Shepherd being marked as in attendance but was actually not at the meeting. A Member questioned on page 9568 whether there was any progress regarding the Poppy Sculptures. The Acting Town Clerk stated he was still looking into this with Durham County Council.
- c) Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 24th April, 2018; subject to Councillor T Shepherd being marked as in attendance but was actually not at the meeting.
- d) Minutes of the Special Planning & Environmental Committee held on 30th April, 2018;
- e) Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 1st May, 2018;
- f) Minutes of Planning and Environmental Committee held on 1st May, 2018.

11. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

A Member suggested that the Town Promotion and Development Committee should be discarded. Over the years the Committee has been used to receive speakers but these items could be heard under the Parks and Events Committee, Arts and Information Committee or any other suitable Committee.

RESOLVED that the Town Promotion and Development Committee be discarded and any business for this Committee be heard at either Parks & Events, Arts and Information of any other suitable Committee.

Arts and Information Committee – 21 Members, namely:

MEMBERS: Mrs B E Allen, 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 S Forster, Ms R M Gratton, G N Hepworth, Mrs L Kennedy, D McKenna, Mrs S Pratt, K Shaw, T Shepherd, B Taylor, R Whitehead, Miss L Willis.

Parks and Events Committee – 21 Members, namely:

MEMBERS: Mrs B E Allen, 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 S Forster, Ms R M Gratton, G N Hepworth, Mrs L Kennedy, D McKenna, Mrs S Pratt, K Shaw, T Shepherd, B Taylor, R Whitehead, Miss L Willis.

Finance and General Purposes Committee – 21 Members, namely:

MEMBERS: Mrs B E Allen, 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 S Forster, Ms R M Gratton, G N Hepworth, Mrs L Kennedy, D McKenna, Mrs S Pratt, K Shaw, T Shepherd, B Taylor, R Whitehead, Miss L Willis.

Planning and Environmental Committee – 20 Members, namely:

MEMBERS: Mrs B E Allen, R Arthur, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, Mrs K Brace, S P Colborn, S Cudlip, D Cummings, Mrs V Cummings, Mrs S Forster, Ms R M Gratton, G N Hepworth, Mrs L Kennedy, D McKenna, Mrs S Pratt, K Shaw, T Shepherd, B Taylor, R Whitehead, Miss L Willis.

Twinning Committee – 21 Members, namely:

MEMBERS: Mrs B E Allen, 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 S Forster, Ms R M Gratton, G N Hepworth, Mrs L Kennedy, D McKenna, Mrs S Pratt, K Shaw, T Shepherd, B Taylor, R Whitehead, Miss L Willis.

Establishment Sub-Committee – 12 Members, namely:

MEMBERS: Mrs B E Allen, R Arthur, E Bell, Mrs G Bleasdale, Mrs K Brace, S Colborn, S Cudlip, Mrs V Cummings, G N Hepworth, K Shaw, T Shepherd, Miss L Willis.

Clerk's Advisory Sub-Committee – 14 Members, namely:

MEMBERS: R Arthur, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, Mrs K Brace, S Colborn, S Cudlip, Mrs V Cummings, Mrs S Forster, G N Hepworth, Mrs L Kennedy, K Shaw, T Shepherd, B Taylor, Miss L Willis.

Allotments Sub-Committee – 8 Members, namely

MEMBERS: Mrs B E Allen, E Bell, S Colborn, Mrs G Bleasdale, G N Hepworth, T Shepherd, B Taylor, Miss L Willis.

Staff Disciplinary Panel - 6 Members

MEMBERS: The panel to comprise any 3 Councillors from the following Members:

Mrs J Bell, Mrs S Forster, D McKenna, B Taylor (+ 2 Seaham Community Party)

Computer Sub-Committee – 12 Members

MEMBERS: R Arthur, Mrs K Brace, S Colborn, G Hepworth, B Taylor, Miss L Willis
There will be 6 Members added by the Labour Group

Joint Staff Consultative Committee

Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Full Committees – not Sub-Committees or Working Parties – 8 in total

Mayor's Advisory Sub-Committee – 8 Members, namely:

MEMBERS: R Arthur, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, Mrs S Forster, B Taylor, Miss L Willis,
Town Clerk, Mayors Secretary

Budget Sub-Committee – 8 Members, namely:

MEMBERS: R Arthur, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, S Colborn, S Cudlip, S Forster,
B Taylor, Miss L Willis

Town Hall Working Party – 8 Members

MEMBERS: R Arthur, Mrs B E Allen, E Bell, S Cudlip, Mrs S Forster,
G N Hepworth, B Taylor, Miss L Willis.

Dawdon Park Working Party – 10 Members, namely:

MEMBERS: R Arthur, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, S Cudlip, S Forster, G Hepworth,
B Taylor, Miss L Willis, Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk

Special Note - Agendas for Dawdon Working Party to be sent out to all Members of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for information purposes.

12. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Seaham Youth Centre have informed the Town Council due to their new arrangements that they no longer wish to have a representative from Seaham Town Council. If arrangements change this will come back to the Council.

A Check needs to be carried out to see if the County Durham Local Access Forum is still operating. Councillor R Arthur stated that he is interested in the East Durham Heritage Coast Partnership but would be happy to let another Councillor take over if they wished to do so. A Member stated that he welcomed Councillor Arthur's willingness to stay on this Forum, however all of these outside appointments require Members to attend the meetings.

RESOLVED that the appointments to Outside Bodies be as follows for the ensuing year.

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| a) | EASTLEA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
1 Representative | S Colborn |
| b) | SEAHAM CADET AIR TRAINING CORP
1 Representative | D McKenna |
| c) | EAST DURHAM HERITAGE COAST PARTNERSHIP
1 Representative | R Arthur |
| d) | COASTLINERS
1 Representative | B Taylor |
| e) | EAST DURHAM AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP FORUM
1 Representative | B Taylor |
| f) | SEAHAM AND DISTRICT SCOUTS ASSOCIATION
1 Representative | D McKenna |
| g) | COMMUNITY HEALTH NETWORK
1 Representative | Mrs Leanne Kennedy |
| h) | COUNTY DURHAM LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
1 Representative | R Arthur |
| i) | DESTINATION SEAHAM
2 Representatives | S Colborn
Mrs Leanne Kennedy |
| j) | SEAHAM MARINA
1 Representative | K Shaw |

TO RESOLVE THAT, IN RESPECT OF ANY OF THE AFOREMENTIONED APPOINTMENTS INVOLVING ATTENDANCE BY THE MEMBER CONCERNED OUTSIDE THE TOWN'S BOUNDARIES, THIS SHOULD RANK AS AN APPROVED DUTY FOR PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCES.

13. MODERNISATION OF MAIN COMMITTEES

A Member stated that it has been discussed amongst some Councillors that due to difficulties with attendance due to shift working, or children at home it is proving difficult for them to get to all meetings. The current system is quite outdated and unmodern by having all Members on all Committees. The suggestion is that for discussion amongst both parties the modernisation of main Committees by reducing the membership by agreement to a much more workable level so that there is hopefully a better quality of discussion and hopefully this will release some people from the demands that they have at home. This was purely a suggestion and if Members are agreeable to this there could be a joint discussion between Members of both parties. It would be appreciated if this could happen within the next 2-3 months at the latest and it may be at the end of it a new diary will need to be created for meetings.

RESOLVED that a meeting between both parties takes place to discuss further the reduction in the main Committees over the next few months.