

## **MINUTES OF THE ARTS AND INFORMATION COMMITTEE HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2018**

Present: Councillor Mrs J A Bell, (Chair) and Councillors, R Arthur, E Bell, Mrs G Bleasdale, Ms R M Gratton, G N Hepworth, Mrs L Kennedy, D McKenna, T Shepherd, B Taylor.

Apologies: Councillors Mrs B E Allen, Mrs K Brace, S P Colborn, S Cudlip, D Cummings, Mrs V Cummings, Mrs S Forster, Mrs S Pratt, K Shaw, Miss L Willis.

*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 28<sup>th</sup> AUGUST, 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. CONFERENCE APPOINTMENTS**

RECOMMENDED that the Committee note the information.

### **4. REMOVAL OF STREET LIGHTING – BETWEEN NORTHLEA AND DENESIDE - ENFIELD ROAD**

County Councillors Edward Bell and Mrs Jennifer Bell stated that they had already received this proposal in their capacity as County Councillors for that area and had both objected to the proposal and stated it is their views that Seaham Town Council should also send a letter of objection. County Councillor Edward Bell stated this area is known as the Black Path which is already dark and if the street lights are removed the area will become pitch black which will be dangerous for many people including dog walkers and also school children who use this path as a short cut from Deneside area to the new High School. There is also a high risk of fly tipping if the area is not lit. As Members are aware this area is also designated for a new housing development so if the lights are removed they may have to be reinstated.

A Member stated he accepted County Councillor Edward Bell's comments and supported that a letter of objection should be sent to Durham County Council from Seaham Town Council.

RECOMMENDED that a letter of objection for the proposed removal of street lighting between Northlea and Deneside be sent to Durham County Council.

**5. STREET LIGHTING AT GEORGE ELMY LIFEBOAT WAY**

The Acting Town Clerk stated that the Town Council had previously agreed to pay for the lights which Durham County Council wanted to remove on the A182 on George Elmy Lifeboat Way. It was previously agreed that the Town Council would pay £35k equally over 10 years along with maintenance costs of approximately £1k per year for the 10 years. Durham County Council are now requesting that the £35k be paid upfront. A Member stated that the Town Council did say they would pay over 10 years as this needs to be budgeted for. A Member stated that Durham County Council are saying £35k up front but who is to say that they won't ask for more at a later date.

Members agreed that this would need to go to the next Finance and General Purposes Committee to discuss further.

Members noted that there are lights on the Industrial Estate that are not required and yet Durham County Council are not removing those. County Councillor Mrs Leanne Kennedy stated that herself and County Councillor Kevin Shaw had met with Durham County Council previously to try and keep the lights but this was to no avail. Members requested that the Acting Town Clerk corresponds with Durham County Council and asks again if those lights can be kept and lights on the Industrial Estate be removed.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) This item be placed on the next Finance and General Purposes Committee agenda for further discussion.
- (ii) The Acting Town Clerk questions Durham County Council on the removal of lights from the Industrial Estate in exchange for the lights to be kept on George Elmy Lifeboat Way.

**6. PRESS OPPORTUNITIES**

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