

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11th DECEMBER, 2018

Present: The Mayor, Councillor Mrs B E Allen (Presiding) and Councillors R Arthur, Mrs G Bleasdale, S P Colborn, S Cudlip, Mrs S Forster, Ms R M Gratton, Mrs L Kennedy, D McKenna, T Shepherd, B Taylor, R Whitehead, Miss L Willis.

Apologies: Councillors E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, Mrs K Brace, D Cummings, Mrs V Cummings, G Hepworth, 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. OPEN SESSION

In accordance with established policy the Council provided the opportunity at the beginning of the meeting for a 15 minute session.

A member of the public stated that there have been a number of complaints regarding cars speeding on Stockton Road and suggested that there should be speed cameras placed on this road to catch the evidence. This has gone on for years and something should be done about it. The member of the public also stated that Windermere Road in Westlea is also a troublesome area and speed ramps should be installed there. The member of the public also stated that cars should not be parked on the pavements as this is also blocking the view of drivers and all houses should have driveways to keep their cars safe and off the pavements. A Member stated that this is a Durham County Council issue and the Town Council can write to Durham informing them of the situation. Another Member questioned whether the Police should be contacted but it was noted that this is a County Council matter and not for the Police.

A Member stated that at Windemere Road it is a one way system and just lately a lot of cars have started to drive up the one way system the wrong way. Cars are parking on the pavements as they have nowhere else to park and there will be a nasty accident there. Another Member stated where the Police have stated it isn't a Police matter she thought this should be a Police matter as it is an enforcement issue where people are parking on the pavements as they are breaking the law. A member of the public stated that people with prams and disability scooters are not able to get past the cars parked on the pavements.

Councillor Stephen Colborn stated that for a point of information that he had raised several months previously that anytime he makes a statement he wishes for his name to be placed against the statement and does not wish to be addressed in minutes as a Member.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the Town Clerk writes to Durham County Council regarding the speeding on Stockton Road.
- (ii) Councillor Stephen Colborn's name to be used in any statements he makes within the Council Chamber and to be added to the minutes.

3. TO CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 13th NOVEMBER, 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 9715 a Member questioning that at the last meeting a member of the public stated that the Seaham Community Party had been placing nasty remarks towards her on Social Media and then she later admitted that this wasn't true and she was then requested to provide any evidence she may have had to the Town Clerk who would then investigate it. The Member questioned whether any evidence had been provided into the Council Offices. It was noted that nothing had been received. Another Member stated that if there was no evidence provided then the Seaham Community Party Member who was mentioned should be given an apology.

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 20th November, 2018.
- b) Report of the Parks and Events Committee held on 20th November, 2018 subject to 3.1 regarding the inflatables a Member questioned when different groups were informed of this new policy was it specified what types of inflatables could and could not be used. The Town Clerk stated that she would look into this and report back to Members. A Member stated that there were two lots of pictures which were provided at the meeting and the Officer stated that there were two types of inflatables which were permissible and safe and the decision of the Council was to go along with that recommendation. The Council need to ensure that the correct information has been sent out to all of the clubs on Council owned land.
- c) Report of the Clerks Advisory Sub-Committee held on 20th November, 2018 subject to a Member stating that she had attended the meeting regarding the walk-in centre and advised them that if they wanted to get more people attending the meetings people shouldn't have to ring in and book a seat.

They are now going to book the Town Hall and hold a further meeting here so people can come and have their say and Seaham needs more places for Doctors and not less. People at the meeting were astounded to hear that people using the 111 service to get an appointment with a Doctor were guaranteed an appointment either the same day or the next day and that this needs to be advertised more so people are aware of this service. They have now promised to publicise this service and Members of the Town Council at the meeting stated that they could use the Town Council in any way they needed to get this message out to the public whether this be by using the Councils website or some other means. Councillor S P Colborn stated that he was astonished to read that it states there is minimal footfall in the Seaham Walk-In and noted that every time he has gone to the service he has been signposted to Peterlee Walk-In and felt that this had been done deliberately. Councillor Colborn stated that he had informed them on more than one occasion that he is a wheelchair user and they have still signposted him to Peterlee. He stated that the service has been set up to fail and Seaham residents should fight this.

- d) Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 27th November, 2018, subject to page 9730 and the discussion around the Mayor/Deputy Mayor Charing meetings and that however many years ago it was agreed that the Mayor/Deputy Mayor wouldn't chair meetings there was nothing in the Standing Orders and therefore it would need to be inserted into the minutes that this is not reflected in the Standing Orders.
- e) Report of the Planning and Environmental Committee held on 27th November, 2018, subject to page 9734 items 6 & 7. A Member stated that County Councillors had declared an interest and then taken no further part in the voting and yet they are supporting this. I know the County Councillors have supported this in the past and should the County Councillors not be giving a reason as to why they are declaring an interest. Another Member stated that the issue of declarations of interest are personal matters which fall to the Member concerned for them to decide whether they offer particular further information to explain why they are doing it but in this particular instance they have declared a personal interest and not taken any part. Another Member stated that all of those Councillors have supported this motion but have chosen not to take any further part in the voting which appears to look like any easy get out clause. Another Member stated that he assumed the Members declared their interest because they are an elected Member of another body who has a statutory responsibility to deal with these lighting issues and because of that they don't want it being suggested that they have a conflict of interest and that they are making decisions in two separate locations, within the County Council and the Town Council.
- f) Report of the Establishment Sub-Committee held on 27th November, 2018.

5. **NAC RECYCLING & REDUCTION OF SINGLE USE PLASTICS CONFERENCE**
11th-13th JANUARY 2019

A Member felt that it was an important issue and the sooner plastics are gone from the land and sea the better.

Councillor S P Colborn questioned whether the Town Council does any recycling of any type of plastic. It was noted that the Town Council does recycle all waste. Councillor SP Colborn then asked why would Members attend a conference to discuss things that the Town Council already does and could not see the point in the Council spending money on this to be told things of no interest what so ever. Another Member stated that she had recently attended a conference and it is surprising what you do find out on how to save on other things. Some Councils may have better things that Seaham doesn't know about and by attending and talking to other Councils you learn.

Another Member stated that Durham County Council are responsible for the refuse collection and recycling so would it not be more relevant for someone from the County to attend.

Councillor S P Colborn stated that he would like to move that this conference not be attended as it was his opinion that this conference does not add any value to Seaham Town Council.

A Member stated that single use plastics is a massive topic at the moment and it is seen quite a lot at Seaham Beach. The Member stated that the Town Council should be working with their clubs such as the Cricket Clubs etc and pass on the information received from attending these conferences on to them so they can come up with better ways of removing single use plastics from their menus and also a good opportunity for the Creative Place with the lottery grant which has just been given and there will be a Youth Council. It would be a good project for the Town Council to work with these organisations around single use plastics and be proactive as a Council in promoting this. The Member moved that the Town Council does attend this conference.

Another Member stated that it was voted on a few months previously that the Town Council would attend conferences and seconded this.

The motion was for Members to attend the conference this then went to a vote:

4 Against
7 For
1 Abstain

RESOLVED that in accordance with the Town Council's policy it was agreed that the next two Members on the rota should attend the NAC's Recycling and Reduction of Single Use Plastics Conference.