

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26th MARCH, 2019

Present: The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Miss L Willis (Presiding) and Councillors E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, Mrs G Bleasdale, Mrs K Brace, S P Colborn, S Cudlip, 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.

Apologies: Councillors Mrs B E Allen, R Arthur, D Cummings, Mrs V Cummings,

Officers: Mrs D Rickaby (Town Clerk)

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.

FC10/19 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. Such interests must be submitted to the Town Clerk prior to the meeting.

FC11/19 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 raised the issue with the new fence which is to be erected at New Drive and stated that she wished to object to the whole field being fenced off as she had been walking dogs in this area for over 40 years and has always picked up after her dogs. The member of the public felt that the fence was being erected for a minority of people who do not pick up after their dogs and felt that a dog warden could patrol this area 2/3 times per day to catch these people and they should be fined.

The member of the public handed a petition to the Chair with options of:

- a) to fence off the whole of Wembley field (New Drive)
- b) to fence off only the football pitches and leave a friendly dog walking area with plenty of waste bins

The outcome of the petition was 17% wanted to fence off the whole field and 83% wanted to leave a dog walking area.

The member of the public stated that the sports fields are only used part of the year and when they are in use it is only a few times per week and she has regularly collected rubbish from the field which the sports users have left behind.

The Town Clerk informed Members that the petition raised 593 votes on Facebook.

A member of the public stated that dog walkers need some form of green space to walk dogs otherwise they will be walking dogs on the streets which could cause further problems with dog fouling.

Members agreed to refer this item to the next Parks and Events Committee meeting.

RECOMMENDED that this item be added to the next Parks and Events Committee agenda for further discussion.

The Town Clerk discussed the slight change to the format of the agenda and stated that where it mentions matters arising from the minutes this should actually state any updates from the Town Clerk. There is also new referencing on all minutes so Members and Officers can easily identify resolutions if they need to refer back to them and will reduce the need to go through the minutes page by page.

FC12/19 **TO CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 26th FEBRUARY, 2019**

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.

The Town Clerk informed Members that Seaham Town Council had won the tender to run Seaham Market. Members expressed their thanks to the Town Clerk for the work she had carried out to secure this tender. The Town Clerk stated that once the contracts had been signed the Town Council would start to publicise the new market.

FC13/19 **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 5th March, 2019.
- b) Report of the Parks and Events Committee held on 5th March, 2019 subject to page 9795, PE15/19 item 5 in view of the petition that has been received by the Town Council that this item is referred back to

the Parks and Events Committee for further review. Also on page 9797 PE15/19 item 10 it is not the 100th Anniversary of D Day it is the 75th Anniversary.

- c) Report of the Planning and Environmental Committee held on 12th March, 2019 subject to page 9801 item PL19/19 that a thank you letter be sent to Sergeant Peel for his informative update.
- d) Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 12th March, 2019.
- e) Report of the Clerks Advisory Sub-Committee held on 12th March, 2019.

FC14/19 COUNCILLOR S COLBORN – INPROPRIETY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

A Member suggested that this item should be referred to the Establishment Sub-Committee due to the sensitive nature of the discussion and the press and public should be excluded. Other Members felt that the item concerned was raised in a public meeting and should be discussed in a public meeting. As agreement couldn't be reached it was agreed to hold a named vote on this item.

Members in favour of referring to the Establishment Sub-Committee meeting namely:

Councillors E Bell, Mrs J Bell, Mrs G Bleasdale, S Cudlip, Mrs S Forster, Mrs L Kennedy, D McKenna, K Shaw, T Shepherd, R Whitehead. (9)

Members Against namely:

Councillors Mrs K Brace, S Colborn, Ms R M Gratton, Mrs S Pratt, B Taylor, Miss L Willis. (6)

Members Abstained: Councillor G N Hepworth (1)

RECOMMENDED that this item be raised at the next available Establishment Sub-Committee meeting.