

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE HELD ON 2ND JULY, 2019

Present: Councillor Miss L Willis (Chair)
Mrs B E Allen, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell,
Mrs K Brace, S P Colborn, Mrs S Forster,
Mrs L Kennedy, T Shepherd, B Taylor,
R Whitehead.

Apologies: Councillors R Arthur, S Cudlip,
D Cummings, Mrs V Cummings,
Ms R M Gratton, Mrs S Pratt, K Shaw.

Observer: Councillor Mrs G Bleasdale

Officers: P Fletcher (Deputy Town Clerk)
Ms A Rountree (Minute Taker)

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.

PL45/19 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.

PL46/19 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4TH JUNE, 2019

RECOMMENDED the Minutes of these meetings, copies of which had been previously printed and circulated to each Member, be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

PL47/19 TRAFFIC PROBLEMS AT ST MARY MAGDALENE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr Duncan Head Teacher from the school was not in attendance at the meeting so County Councillor Mrs L Kennedy informed Members that Durham County Council have been working with the school on the traffic problems and double yellow lines had been placed around Tintagel Drive, Merlin Close and the yellow lines and white zigzag lines have also been repainted outside of the school. The problem has also been highlighted in the school's newsletter for parent's attention. There has also been two weekly speed checks carried out by the Police for the last 2 months.

The residents opposite the school have stated that there has been a massive improvement and the County Council have received good feedback.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

PL48/19 **PLANNING ISSUES**

a) Monthly List

A Member raised a question regarding the removal of the barrier at the marina and the access to the stairway. It was noted that the stairway was still in the same place as yet.

RECOMMENDED the list of planning applications referred to all Councillors since the last meeting, namely 5593 to 5600 as circulated be noted.

PL49/19 **PLANNING CONSULTATION – SEAHAM HIGH SCHOOL**

Members discussed the proposed change of status for Seaham High School to an Academy. Members were concerned about this as Eden are based in Ferryhill which has no relevance to Seaham. A Member noted that it has always been on the school's agenda to change to an Academy.

Members agreed that the Town Council should respond to Seaham High School to inform them that they are not happy with the proposal to change to an Academy.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk responds to the High School's consultation stating that the Town Council are not happy with the proposal.

PL50/19 **WILDFLOWERS ON ROAD SIDE & SOLAR PANELS ON THE TOWN HALL**

A Member suggested that the Town Council could use wildflowers to create meadows on their land which would cut costs of mowing as well as be environmentally friendly and would reduce the Council's carbon footprint. This would also expand the insect's biodiversity. He also stated that this could be done in collaboration with Durham County Council who could also save on costs.

The Member also stated that the Town Hall has a lot of roof space which could be used for solar panels which would also benefit the Town Council by reducing the carbon footprint and also saving costs on fuel. Members agreed that these were good ideas and the Deputy Town Clerk should look into this further.

RECOMMENDED that:

- (i) The Deputy Town Clerk speaks to Durham County Council around the wildflower meadows on their land.
- (ii) The Deputy Town Clerk to seek expert advice on the costing for changing to solar panels at the Town Hall.

PL51/19 TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS ISSUES

a) **Neighbourhood Services – Highways**

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

PL52/19 PREMISES LICENCE – FLAMINGO CAFÉ – SEAHAM MARINA

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the Town Council had been informed that the Flamingo Café at the Marina had applied for a premises licence. It was noted that Members had no objections to this application.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

PL53/19 REMOVAL OF TELEPHONE KIOSKS

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that Durham County Council had informed the Town Council of BT's proposal to remove three telephone kiosks at Queen Alexandra Road, Melrose Crescent and Byron Lodge Estate. It was noted that Members had no objections to the removal of the three kiosks.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

PL54/19 PRESS OPPORTUNITIES

Members noted that the solar panels and also the wildflower meadows could be a press opportunity to show that the Town Council are an environmentally friendly Council.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.