

## **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2019**

Present: The Mayor, Councillor Miss L Willis (Presiding) and Councillors Mrs. B. Allen, R Arthur, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, Mrs G Bleasdale, Mrs K Brace, S P Colborn, S Cudlip, G N Hepworth, D McKenna, Mrs S Pratt, T Shepherd, B Taylor, R Whitehead.

Apologies: Councillors D Cummings, Mrs V Cummings, Mrs S Forster, Ms R M Gratton, Mrs L Kennedy, K. Shaw.

Officers: Mr P Fletcher (Deputy Town Clerk), Mr C Halliday (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.*

### **FC27/19 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.

### **FC28/19 OPEN SESSION**

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

A representative of the Allotment Association addressed the Committee. They wished to contest the accuracy of the Parks minutes from April as they believe they are not a factual record from the discussions which took place at that meeting. A Member raised a point of order and stated this was not appropriate for this meeting as the minutes in question have been ratified previously. A Member raised a point of order and suggested this be on the next agenda of the relevant Committee to discuss the matter further. The Allotment Association representative was happy with matter to be discussed at Parks on the understanding they would be allowed to participate in the meeting to get an amicable lease drawn up. A Member suggested the Association meet with the Deputy Town Clerk then a report be provided to the Parks Committee. The Association stated with respect they would prefer to discuss the matter directly with the Parks Committee. It was seconded that the matter be discussed at the next Parks Committee. The Chair requested a summary of issues be provided so the concerns can be better addressed when discussed. The Association representative stated one issue was a section of the minutes implied items were previously agreed between the parties when that was not the case.

A local resident addressed the Committee with their concerns relating to vehicles in the Westlea area. It was advised there is a shortcut on Windermere Road which vehicles are using, vehicles are speeding and going the wrong way through no entry signs. The resident stated there has been accidents in this area previously and is concerned about the safety of the children in the area. It was noted homeowners in the area park on the pavement which limits access for pedestrians, it was felt there is a lack of warden visibility enforcing the area. The resident reported they attempted to take items to the skips on foot and was informed they could not access the skip area on foot and felt it should be easier for people to access the skips to prevent fly tipping. It was stated these concerns have been provided to Durham County Council previously however the resident felt a lack of progress was being made.

The Chair advised the resident that the Town Clerk is currently looking into the tipping and traffic issue in the Westlea area. A County Councillor for the ward stated some of these concerns have been actioned. A barrier is to be installed to restrict the shortcut. A walk around meeting was held which walked around all of Westlea with the local Police, Highways Department and Wardens to review the concerns of residents. It was reported speed bumps are not possible in the area due to safety concerns from Highways. A consultation for a 20mph speed limit for the Deneside area which also includes Westlea is being released shortly. In reference to the recent skip visit it was advised regulations regarding access requirements are in place for public safety.

A member of the public requested clarity on the previous wording a Member used when discussing the Allotment Associations concerns previously this meeting. They asked, once ratified are the minutes set in stone? Members of the Committee said yes. The Chair further explained all minutes are in draft format until being passed at the Council meeting.

Recommended that the Allotment Associations concerns be placed on the next agenda of the Parks Committee.

**FC29/19      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 Special Parks and Events Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2019.
- b) Report of the Annual Meeting of Seaham Town Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2019.
- c) Report of the Meeting of Seaham Town Council held on 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2019. In refence to item FC/24/19 the Committee was advised County Council reported no further action on the issue. It was also noted following the investigation no further action is to be taken by the Police or Standards.

- d) Report of the Arts and Information Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2019.
- e) Report of the Parks and Events Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2019. Subject to Councillor Allen's apologies being recorded. The Chair asked for clarity on page 9888 asking why the matter was to be taken to Establishment. A Member stated it was to understand what wrong doings took place on the evening in question. A Member advised a full explanation was given at the last meeting regarding two sets of minutes which they deemed incomplete and inadequate. A Member stated they could not see why this would go to Establishment when there is no recording to back up either way. A Member stated the purpose of this being raised at Establishment is to clarify responsibilities and duties. The Chair recommended an amendment be issued and the matter not be taken to the Establishment Committee. The proposal was seconded and named vote requested.

For – 8

Councillors Mrs. B. Allen, B. Arthur, Mrs. K. Brace, S. Colborn, G. Hepworth, Mrs. S. Pratt, B. Taylor and Miss L. Willis.

Against – 7

Councillors E. Bell, Mrs. J. Bell, Mrs. G. Bleasdale, S. Cudlip, D. McKenna, T. Shepherd and R. Whitehead.

- f) Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2019.
- g) Report of the Planning and Environmental Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2019. Subject to the removal of apologies from Councillors E. Bell, Mrs. J Bell, Mrs. S. Forster and Mrs. L. Kennedy. The inclusion of the apologies of Councillor S. Cudlip.
- h) Report of the Twinning Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2019.

**FC30/19**

**GRANT APPLICATION – 1338 (SEAHAM) SQUADRON ATC**

A Member stated that unless this is a matter of urgency items of this nature are usually discussed at the Finance Committee and believes more suitable funding routes for the applicant are available for this project.

A Member questioned if planning permission had been sought and where it was to be sited. The Deputy Town Clerk advised it will be sited at the bottom of Dene House Road and planning is included as part of the Durham County Council signage work. The Town Council sourced a cheaper quote however the County Council advised they could only proceed with their own quoted work.

Recommended this be deferred to the next meeting of the Finance Committee.

**FC31/19     LORD BYRONS WALK CEMETERY**

Recommended that the Deputy Town Clerk sensitively deal with the issue.

**FC32/19     RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RECOMMENDED that in view of the confidential nature of the next item the formal resolution be passed to exclude the press and public from the meeting pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act, 1960.

**FC33/19     CONTRACT HIRE FOR REPLACEMENT VEHICLES**

The Committee was advised quotes were circulated separately and the recommendation was the cheapest quote be accepted. It was requested assurances be made of due diligence.

Recommended that the cheapest quote be accepted.

**FC34/19     SEAHAM CARNIVAL**

The Chair reminded Members of the upcoming Carnival Weekend and advised Members that In Your Face Theatre are to undertake a collection with a donation being made to the Mayor's Charity Fund.

**FC35/19     CASTLEREAGH ROAD ROADWORKS**

A Member requested the Deputy Town Clerk contact Durham County Council with a view to establish how long the roadworks are going to be in place as they have been ongoing for around two months.