

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12TH NOVEMBER, 2019

Present: The Mayor, Councillor Miss L Willis (Presiding) and Councillors R Arthur, S Cudlip, Mrs S Forster, R. Gratton, D McKenna, K Shaw, T Shepherd, B Taylor.

Apologies: Councillors Mrs B Allen, Mrs G Bleasdale, Ms K Brace, S P Colborn, D Cummings, Mrs V Cummings, Mrs L Kennedy, Mrs S Pratt.

Officers: Mrs D Rickaby (Town Clerk)
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.

Prior to the meeting a minute silence was observed following the recent passing of former Councillor Charlie Walker.

FC45/19 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.

FC46/19 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 Fishbone Allotment Association asked if Councillor Taylor had authorised a plotholder to cut a padlock off the water supply? The Member stated he did not give permission however he agrees with the action as he believes water should be accessible. The Allotment representative advised Members that the plotholder had informed the police Councillor Taylor had authorised the action during their investigation.

A number of members of the public were in attendance to express their concern at the proposed dog bans on Seaham beaches.

A resident expressed their concern stating the proposed dog bans would have a negative impact on local businesses as many dog walkers visit local cafes and shops. The Chair advised the resident that Durham County Council are to hold a public consultation and the Town Council has no influence in this decision however the consultation is currently on hold due to purdah but nothing can take place until the consultation has been carried out.

A resident asked how the consultation will take place as the previous consultation had a poor response rate with many local residents unaware it was taking place. It was advised the previous consultation proposed a ban from the Harbour to Seaham Hall which the resident felt they could not support however they would support the marina beach only. The resident suggested a letter informing people about the consultation be included with council tax mailouts so everybody has a chance to respond. A Member advised the last consultation held was carried out only online and suggested utilising the Seaham Today magazine which is published to all houses in Seaham to increase awareness supplementary to the online one. The next edition of Seaham Today is due to be published in January.

A resident expressed concern that jobs would be effected stating a similar ban took place in Seaburn and visitors dropped. The resident added the marina beach is the only one disabled users can attend and the ban would remove their rights. It was advised these and other points will be considered, it is a matter of balance recognising equal rights for both dog owners and public visiting the beaches.

A member of the public asked when did Durham County Council decide to carry out a consultation and what was their rational for that decision making process? A County Councillor advised this is in response to the number public complaints received regarding the issue. From April to September an industrial street cleaner was required to clear away the dog dirt on the promenade. The member of the public stated there is more of a health risk from waste left from humans. The Chair advised a happy medium will be aimed to be achieved. This was matter was raised through Easington District Council and in the process of being enacted around 2006/7 however due to local government reorganisation never was enacted as a result the dog ban has been raised various times by members of the public. The member of the public asked if people keep complaining about mess from humans will they be banned too? The Chair stated once the document is published by Durham County Council you can make views known to them and as advised by Council Councillor it will be a balanced consultation to identify the issues and how to stop it. The member of the public expressed their concern regarding businesses losing trade, the Councillor advised that is why a balance consultation will be raised.

A member of the public asked when the consultation will take place? The Chair advised this will be after purdah so the earliest anything can be looked at will be January after the elections. The member of the public asked which officer at Durham County Council would authorise this consultation to proceed, the County Councillor advised they will get this information and forward it on.

A resident advised Members this stems from an email which is being shared on Facebook which was from Durham County Council to the Town Clerk. The Chair advised we have no knowledge of such email but if you provide the reference we can look into it.

FC47/19 **TO CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 15TH OCTOBER, 2019**

Regarding page 9950 it was advised a meeting was held on the Wednesday following this meeting to check the recommendation. The new recommendation was “that Parkside, Fishbone and Deneside Allotments would be managed by Seaham Town Council for an interim period until the sites are restored and new Committees are created” cultivation was not mentioned and is to be removed.

The new resolution was supported.

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.

FC48/19 **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 22nd October, 2019.

Regarding page 9952 a Member stated the cost of attending a course is £329 not the £2,000 quoted at the meeting. The Chair stated the newly quoted figure does not include accommodation, travel or delegate fees. The Member stated the minutes do not reflect this. It was requested the Town Clerk check the recording to verify if it was full cost or just course fees being quoted.

- b) Report of the Parks and Events Committee held on 22nd October, 2019.

Subject to the attendance of Councillors S. Cudlip and L. Willis being included.

- c) Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 29th October, 2019.

- d) Report of the Planning and Environmental Committee held on 29th October, 2019.

- e) Report of the Clerk’s Advisory Sub-Committee held on 29th October, 2019.

Regarding page 9964 a Member requested the Dignity at Work policy be withdrawn and brought back to the next Clerks Advisory meeting for further discussion.

FC49/19 TOWN CLERK'S UPDATE

No topics were raised during this item.

FC50/19 ALLOTMENTS WORKING PARTY MEETING 16TH OCTOBER 2019

Following recent discussion this item has been superseded.

FC51/19 ALLOTMENTS WORKING PARTY MEETING 23RD OCTOBER 2019

RESOLVED that the report be approved.