

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 6TH OCTOBER, 2020

Present: Councillor Miss L Willis (Presiding), and
Councillors R Arthur, 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,
K Shaw, T Shepherd, B Taylor.

Officer: Mrs Dianne Rickaby (Town Clerk)
Miss A Rountree (Minute Taker)

Prior to commencement of the meeting the Chair advised members of the Council 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. ACCEPTANCE OF AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED that Members accept the amendment to the standing orders to incorporate the new regulations from the Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, to conduct virtual Council meetings.

3. ELECTION OF MAYOR OF SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

Two nominations were put forward for the role of Mayor.

Councillor Leanne Kennedy received 8 votes

Councillor Barry Taylor received 8 votes

The Chair used her casting vote so therefore Councillor Barry Taylor was duly elected as Mayor to Seaham Town Council for the ensuing year of 2020/2021.

4. **SIGNING OF THE DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY THE NEWLY ELECTED MAYOR AND HANDOVER OF CHAINS OF OFFICE TO NEW MAYOR AND CONSORT**

It was noted that the signing of the declaration of office would take place when it was safe to do so.

5. **NEW MAYOR'S ACCEPTANCE SPEECH**

The new Mayor thanked all that voted for him and expressed that he would try and do his best.

6. **PRESENTATION OF GIFT TO RETIRING MAYOR AND CONSORT**

It was noted that this would take place when it was safe to do so.

7. **TO ELECT THE DEPUTY MAYOR OF SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE ENSUING YEAR**

Nominations for Deputy Mayor are as follows:

Councillor Miss Linda Willis received 8 votes

Councillor Dave McKenna received 8 votes.

The Chair used his casting vote, therefore Councillor Miss L Willis was duly elected for the ensuing year of office 2020/21.

8. **HANDOVER OF CHAIN OF OFFICE TO NEW DEPUTY MAYOR**

It was noted that this would take place when it was safe to do so.

9. **GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE**

To approve that the Town Council meets the criteria to use the above power.

The Town Clerk explained that in order for the Council to utilise the General Power of Competence which allows the Council to do anything that an individual can do within the parameters of law, then it must be proven at every AGM that they meet the essential criteria. The criteria being that the Council is two thirds elected and that the Town Clerk is a qualified Clerk.

As the Council meets the criteria the Council is advised to approve the power for use in future services.

RESOLVED the Council approve that the Council meets all the appropriate criteria to utilise the General Power of Competence.

10. ELECTION OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

To look at reforming/reviewing the Committee structure and appointing to the Committees and Sub-Committees for the ensuing year.

- a) Arts and Information Committee
- b) Parks and Events Committee
- c) Finance and General Purposes Committee
- d) Planning and Environmental Committee
- e) Twinning Committee
- f) Establishment Sub-Committee
- g) Clerks Advisory Sub-Committee
- h) Allotments Sub-Committee
- i) Staff Disciplinary Sub-Committee
- j) Computer Sub-Committee
- k) Joint Staff Consultative Committee
- l) Mayors Advisory Sub-Committee
- m) Budget Sub-Committee
- n) Town Hall Working Party
- o) Dawdon Park Working Party

It was agreed that the Committees will be reviewed and the Town Clerk to arrange a working party to look at proposals to streamline the Committees to bring back to the new AGM in May 2021.

11. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON OUTSIDE BODIES

To appoint Members to serve as Council representatives on outside bodies for the ensuing year.

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| a) Seaham Cadet Air Training Corps - | D McKenna |
| b) East Durham Heritage Coast Partnership - | R Arthur |
| c) Coastliners - | B Taylor |
| d) NAC | No representative |
| e) East Durham Area Action Partnership Forum - | B Taylor |
| f) Seaham & District Scouts Association - | D McKenna |
| g) Community Health Network - | Mrs L Kennedy |
| h) County Durham Local Access Forum - | R Arthur |
| i) Destination Seaham - | Mrs L Kennedy |
| j) Seaham Marina - | K Shaw |
| k) Heritage Townscape Project | Cllr Sonia Foster |
| l) NALC | Mrs L Kennedy |

The Town Clerk to write to all representatives to ask them if they still wish to continue to represent the Town Council on the above Committees.

To resolve that, in respect of any of the aforementioned appointments involving attendance outside of the town's boundaries, attendance by the Member(s) concerned should rank as an approved duty for payment of allowances.