

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 18TH MAY, 2021

Present: B Taylor (Presiding), and Councillors
R Arthur, Mrs J A Bell, Mrs G Bleasdale,
Mrs K Brace, Mrs H Cahill,
Mrs R Charlton-Laine, Mrs S Forster,
Mrs G M Fuller, D Harding, Mrs L Kennedy,
Mrs S Lingard, R Lowery, J MacVeigh,
Miss S Morrison, J Purvis, K Routledge,
K Shaw, C J Thompson, Miss J Watson,
S Wayman, R Whitehead.

Officers: Paul Fletcher (Acting 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.

AM1/21 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.

AM2/21 CHAIRMAN

B Taylor wished a warm welcome to the newly elected Members of Seaham Town Council.

He stated that it had been an unprecedented year as Mayor of Seaham and unfortunately, he could not get to do the things he would have liked to do such as raising funds for Seaham Charities as part of the Mayors role, however he was proud to be part of the Council who supported the food banks throughout the pandemic to ensure that no residents in Seaham went hungry.

In his time of serving on Seaham Town Council he has seen the refurbishment of Dawdon Park come to fruition which has been a great achievement for Seaham Town Council and also the events getting bigger and better each year attracting thousands of visitors to the town.

B Taylor wished all the new Councillors the best of luck for the next four years and stated that he knows they will continue the good work in Seaham to assist with the town's continuous growth and popularity.

AM3/21

ELECTION OF MAYOR OF SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL FOR 2021/2022

Councillor Miss S Morrison nominated Councillor Mrs L Kennedy. Councillor Miss Morrison noted that Councillor Mrs Kennedy is hardworking, enthusiastic and was born and raised in Seaham. She has two children and one grandson and is very community minded. As a child she was a member of the army cadets and she was employed as a Youth Worker and also a Support Worker at Seaham High School.

Councillor Mrs Kennedy has been a voluntary youth worker and she is also the Chair of Dawdon Community Centre and she has regularly cooked meals and arranged home based activities for children during the pandemic.

Councillor Miss Morrison stated that she had no hesitation in recommending Councillor Mrs Kennedy for the role of Mayor.

This nomination was seconded.

Councillor R Arthur also made a nomination for Councillor Mrs Georgina Fuller which was also seconded.

This item then went to a vote.

Councillor Leanne Kennedy received 14 votes

Councillor Georgina Fuller received 6 votes

RECOMMENDED that Councillor Mrs Leanne Kennedy was duly elected as Mayor to Seaham Town Council for the ensuing year of 2021/2022.

AM4/21

SIGNING OF THE DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Councillor Mrs L Kennedy then signed the declaration of Acceptance of Office of Mayor for Seaham Town Council in the presence of the Acting Town Clerk.

The Chain of Office was then handed over to the new Mayor. B Taylor then vacated the chair.

(The new Mayor, Councillor Mrs L Kennedy then presided)

AM5/21

NEW MAYOR'S ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

The new Mayor stated that she was honoured to be accepted as Seaham's Mayor. She promised that she would represent Seaham at every opportunity and thanked Councillors for voting for her. She stated that she would raise as much funds as possible for local charities.

AM6/21 PRESENTATION OF GIFT TO RETIRING MAYOR AND CONSORT

The new Mayor informed the meeting that the retiring Mayor had decided to donate his gift to Seaham Music Academy.

AM7/21 TO ELECT THE DEPUTY MAYOR OF SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

There was one nomination made for the role of Deputy Mayor this being Councillor Miss S Morrison.

RECOMMENDED that Councillor Miss S Morrison was duly elected for the ensuing year of office 2021/22.

AM8/21 OPEN SESSION

A Member of the public congratulated the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor and noted that these positions had been well chosen. He also welcomed all of the new Members. The member of the public stated that he was involved with Fishbone Allotment Association and had previously had a lot of issues with Seaham Town Council, however he looked forward to working with the newly elected Council and hoped that the issues could now be resolved.

AM9/21 MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4TH MAY, 2021

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.

AM10/21 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

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.

AM11/21 TO ADOPT THE REVISED STANDING ORDERS

RESOLVED the Council will adopt the current Standing Orders which had been revised in March 2021.

AM12/21 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 proposed that the Computer Sub-Committee and the Joint Staff Consultative Committee were deleted. It was noted that the Joint Staff Consultative Committee could be reappointed if it was necessary to do so in the future.

It was also proposed that the work of the Town Hall Working Party be transferred to the Clerks Advisory Sub-Committee and that Dawdon Park Working Party be deleted as this project has now been completed.

RECOMMENDED that:

- (i) Computer Sub-Committee be deleted.
- (ii) Joint Staff Consultative Committee be deleted; however this can be reappointed to if necessary in the future.
- (iii) Town Hall Working Party be transferred to the Clerks Advisory Sub-Committee.
- (iv) Dawdon Park Working Party be deleted.

AM13/21

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 - | C J Thompson |
| b) East Durham Heritage Coast Partnership - | J Purvis |
| c) Coastliners - | Mrs G M Fuller |
| d) NAC - | Mrs L Kennedy |
| e) East Durham Area Action Partnership Forum - | Miss J Watson |
| f) Seaham & District Scouts Association - | K Routledge |
| g) Community Health Network - | Miss S Morrison |
| h) County Durham Local Access Forum - | K Shaw |

- i) Destination Seaham -**
- j) Seaham Marina -**
- k) Heritage Townscape Project**
- l) NALC/CDALC**

C J Thompson
J MacVeigh
Mrs S Forster
Miss S Morrison

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.

The Mayor thanked the staff for preparing the room for the first meeting back in the Town Hall and for everything they have done over the past year and then closed the meeting.