

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE HELD ON 9th MARCH, 2021

Present: Councillors S Cudlip (Chair) and R Arthur, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, Mrs K Brace, Mrs S Forster, Ms R M Gratton, G N Hepworth, Mrs L Kennedy, D McKenna, T Shepherd, B Taylor, Miss L Willis.

Apologies: K Shaw

Officers: P Fletcher (Deputy Town Clerk), Mrs J Knight (Finance Officer), Miss 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.

PL17/21 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. Such interests must be submitted to the Town Clerk prior to the meeting.

PL18/21 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.

PL19/21 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 9TH FEBRUARY, 2021

RECOMMENDED the Minutes of these meetings, copies of which had been previously printed and circulated to each Member, were approved at the last Full Council meeting and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

PL20/21 PLANNING ISSUES

a) Monthly List

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information provided.

PL21/21 SEAHAM HALL HOTEL

The Chair noted that Members had discussed the felling of the trees and hedgerows at Seaham Hall at a previous meeting.

Durham County Council have written to the Town Council to inform them that the Enforcement Team have undertaken a thorough investigation and found have found that no planning regulations have been breached.

Members discussed this issue and stated that they felt they required further information as they had not been informed as to the reason why the trees were felled.

In view of Members concerns Members agreed that the Deputy Town Clerk should write to the Enforcement Team at Durham County Council to enquire as to why the trees were cut down and also request information as to who owns the land.

RECOMMENDED: that the Deputy Town Clerk writes to Durham County Council to request answers as to why the trees were cut down and also to enquire who the landowner is.

PL22/21

SCOTLAND TO ENGLAND GREEN LINK PROJECT

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that he had received a correspondence regarding the Scotland to England Green Link Project indicating that they will try and bring some further information to the Town Council prior to the Council going into purdah.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

PL23/21

PRESS OPPORTUNITIES

RECOMMENDED that there were no press opportunities from this meeting.

The meeting was then closed by the Chair.