

# Seaton Valley Council

## A Community Council

### Minutes of a Meeting held on Wednesday 30 Sept 2020 at 7.00 pm On Line via Zoom

The meeting started at 7.01 p.m.

<b>PRESENT:</b> Councilors:	S Stanners (Chair), S Dungworth, E Coulson, A Stanners, K. Collier, L Bowman, D Nesbitt and S. Hartland
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b> S Potts – Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer S McNaughton – NCC Strategic Transport Manager R Bateman – NCC Senior Programme Officer  1 Member of the public had joined the meeting	
<b>CO047/20</b>	<b>1. Apologies for absence</b> Cllr B Burt had submitted her apologies for not being able to attend tonight's meeting.
<b>CO048/20</b>	<b>2. Disclosure of interests</b> There were no declarations of interest.
<b>CO049/20</b>	<b>3. Chair's Welcome and Civic Announcements</b> The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded everyone that the formal consultation process on the Council's Neighbourhood Plan Pre-Submission Draft had begun on 9 <sup>th</sup> September and will run until 4 November 2020.  There were no further civic announcements.
<b>CO050/20</b>	<b>4. Public Question Time</b> Mrs Christine Barrell of New Hartley submitted a question asking if the Council's was intending to respond to the planning application seeking approval to build shacks on Double Row to provide food and drink outlets.  The Chair responded by saying the Council will be submitting an objection to the proposal along the following lines: <i>The proposed use (shops, restaurants and drinking establishments) is not in keeping with the predominantly industrial usage on the remainder of Double Row Industrial Estate. The Council feels that the quality of the proposed development is likely to be sub-standard and unlikely to be sustainable The additional traffic generated from the proposed development will make parking on a dangerous stretch of road even worse as parking restrictions are currently both ignored and not enforced. Additionally; road users consistently exceed the speed limit on this stretch of road and in the Council's view, if the planning permission is granted for the development, then the likelihood of a serious accident happening on this stretch of road will be greatly increased. The proposals only allow for 47 parking spaces whilst at the same time the number of employees is estimated to be 40 – this doesn't leave much space for visitors and is likely to further reduce highway safety standards in this area. Similarly the current practice of delivery vehicles parking on yellow lines or half on the curb; will be exacerbated if the development goes ahead, making it even more dangerous for pedestrians (and more so for the partially sighted) to navigate the Double Row</i>

	<p><i>footpath.</i>  <i>The noise, odour and disturbance associated with a development of this type will impede upon the amenity currently enjoyed by residents of the Wheatridge Park and Wheatfields housing estates in Seaton Delaval and the Brambles Housing estate in New Hartley.</i>  <i>The Council is disappointed that New Hartley residents appear not to have been consulted on this application given that the proposed development is less than half a mile away from the village and will adversely affect one of only two road entrances into the village.</i></p> <p>As there had been no further questions submitted the Chair closed the Public Question Time session.</p>
<p><b>CO051/20</b></p>	<p><b>5. Northumberland Line Update</b>  The Chair informed the meeting that he had agreed to move item 11 further up the agenda and asked the NCC officers to speak to their report.  Mr McNaughton, NCC’s Strategic Transport Manager then went on to summarise his report which in essence informed Council that good progress has been made and it now looks highly likely that the project will be delivered as one phase (including a station at Seaton Delaval) rather than the previously proposed two phases. Key dates are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• October – November 2020 – Public Consultation</li> <li>• January 2021 – commencement of planning process</li> <li>• Winter 21/22 – Construction starts on site</li> <li>• December 2023 – Opening</li> </ul> <p>Mr McNughton concluded his presentation by discussing the proposed consultation strategy and its Covid 19 implications in more detail and asked the Council to actively support and facilitate the process as much as possible.  The Chair thanked Mr McNaughton and Mrs Bateman for taking part in tonight’s meeting and said that it was great news that the station at Seaton Delaval will now be built sooner rather than later; he then asked if other Councilors had any questions.  Cllr Nesbitt asked if there was still a possibility of the plans being extended to include additional stations on the line (Seghill for example). In response Mr McNaughton said that this wouldn’t happen in this phase but it was something the steering group might pursue following the completion of the initial project.  Cllr Dungworth firstly welcomed the news that all the works are now scheduled to be completed in one phase and then went on to ask that young people be specifically targeted in the forthcoming consultation exercise – in response Mrs Bateman said that she hoped to include young people in a targeted focus group to seek their views.  The Clerk asked Mr McNaughton to note the poor condition of the railings on the bridge adjacent to the proposed station and asked him to try an include an upgrade within the station build – Mr McNaughton agreed to look into this possibility.  Mr McNaughton and Mrs Bateman left the meeting at the conclusion of this item.</p>
<p><b>CO052/20</b></p>	<p><b>6. County Councillor Update</b>  Cllr Dungworth provided a brief verbal report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NCC and its Public Health team in particular are heavily involved in organizing both the County and the region’s response to the coronavirus pandemic. Cllr Dungworth asked all present and all residents to be respectful of others and to follow local and national advice as and when it is issued,</li> <li>• Delivery of NCC’s Capital Programme has been delayed as a result of the pandemic but all schemes will still be delivered even though some will need to slip to 2021/22,</li> <li>• NCC has appointed a new leader but the Chief Executive remains on extended leave. Cllr Dungworth is concerned that her absence is creating a leadership gap</li> </ul>

	<p>and a reduction in Health and Social Care expertise available to the authority at this difficult time, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Dungworth praised the efforts, professionalism and commitment of all NCC staffs who have stepped up to the plate in responding to challenges presented by the coronavirus pandemic.</li> </ul>
<b>CO053/20</b>	<p><b>7. Minutes of the Council's last Meeting</b></p> <p>The draft minutes of the Council's Meeting held on 29 July 2020 were agreed and accepted as a true record other than Cllr A Stanners had not been recorded as present at that meeting. The formal minutes have been amended to reflect her attendance.</p>
<b>CO054/20</b>	<p><b>8. Services and Partnership Update</b></p> <p>In reviewing the Service Officer's report the Chair highlighted the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 plots at the Denetop Site in Seaton Sluice have now been completely cleared. The area will now be allowed to grow naturally and merge in with the dene</li> <li>• Summer planting is in the process of being removed and will be replaced with spring bedding over the next two weeks,</li> <li>• Initially it had been decided to postpone the scheduled Pink Poo Day on coronavirus grounds, however on reflection, officers are confident that appropriate social distancing guidelines can be maintained and therefore, the day will go ahead on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December – locations to be distributed to members soon.,</li> <li>• The installation of the new children's play equipment at Astley Park has delayed the reopening of the play area. We hope that this jointly funded facility will reopen again in mid-October,</li> <li>• The new bus shelters at New Hartley and Holywell are similarly due to be installed during October, and</li> <li>• Regretfully our Christmas Events have been cancelled this year due to the coronavirus social distancing restrictions applicable to the area. Following a short discussion of this matter Councilors agreed to acquire trees and lighting as normal and arrange for the lights to be switched on in each village by the runner up in last year's Christmas Light competitions. The switch on's will not be advertised and numbers attending will be severely restricted.</li> </ul>
<b>CO055/20</b>	<p><b>9. Engagement and Development Update</b></p> <p>The following items were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular news items have continued to appear on the Council's website and social media platforms,</li> <li>• Issue 21 of Seaton Valley Futures Magazine is in the process of being delivered to every household in the Valley.</li> <li>• The issue includes a large article on our Neighbourhood Plan consultation exercise,</li> <li>• Speed indicator signs have continued to be rotated and monitored over the past few months.</li> </ul>
<b>CO056/20</b>	<p><b>10. Neighbourhood Plan</b></p> <p>The Clerk spoke to the Engagement and Development Officers report which gave a detailed update on the work that has continued in order to progress the Council's Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>The Council's Planning Consultant and the Council's Engagement and Development Officer have worked together to draw up a pre-submission draft, maps and a background paper which form the documentation pack of our formal consultation exercise which runs</p>

	<p>between 9 September and 4v November. The documents propose to create 23 Local Green Spaces and 64 Protected Open Spaces at various sites throughout the Valley. Following completion of the consultation process; responses will be reviewed and where appropriate changes will be made the final version of the plan before it is submitted to NCC for formal examination.</p>
<b>CO057/20</b>	<p><b>11. Local Transport Programme 2021/22</b></p> <p>The Clerk's report asked the Council to identify its top three priorities for potential inclusion in the County Council's Local Transport Programme (LTP) 2021/22 and included a list of all 'highways improvement' requests submitted to NCC by residents over the past year. His report also provided an update on the three priorities the Council submitted last year i.e.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation of a Pelican Crossing adjacent to the Co Op store on Beresford Road, Seaton Sluice,</li> <li>• Installation of traffic calming measures/signage on the approach to Seaton Delaval from the Keelrow Public House, and</li> <li>• Installation of formal parking bay markings on the footpath on the west side of Astley Road between Avenue Head roundabout and the Premier shop.</li> </ul> <p>All three schemes made it into the current year's actual Local Transport Plan although progress on implementing each scheme has yet to be made.</p> <p>In reviewing the information provided with the Clerk's report Council <b>RESOLVED TO: submit the following three schemes for potential inclusion in NCC's 2021/22 Local Transport Plan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Installation of traffic calming measures, similar to those installed in Whitley Bay, on the main A193 through Seaton Sluice. We would suggest at least three installations; one at the entrance and exits to the village and another half way up Beresford Road. Northumbria Police fully support this proposal as it will significantly reduce incidences of speeding on the stretch of road between Blyth and Whitley Bay,</b></li> <li>• <b>Installation of a suitable crossing point at the top of Double Row or on the A192 between the Double Row roundabout and the East Cramlington roundabout to allow residents of the Wheatfield's Estate to access Seaton Delaval' s amenities and schools without having to cross a busy main road with no safe crossing points, and</b></li> <li>• <b>Implementation of the Holywell Village Highways Safety Audit recommendation which was completed over two years ago – installation of traffic island between the Milbourne Arms and the Fat Ox; re siting of bus stop and other associated highways safety improvements</b></li> </ul>
<b>CO058/20</b>	<p><b>12. Bank Reconciliation as at 16 September 2020</b></p> <p>Council agreed to receive the report, and noted that the Council's bank accounts had been successfully reconciled to its financial records.</p>
<b>CO059/20</b>	<p><b>13. Budgetary Control Update</b></p> <p>The Clerk presented his report which analysed cost centres on a line by line basis and discussed any major variances between actual income and expenditure and expected income and expenditure levels to date.</p> <p>Generally speaking the Clerk expected the Council to underspend this year as a result of reduced activity levels in the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>With this in mind Councilors are in the process of identifying alternative areas of expenditure in the current year that could be of immediate and long lasting benefit to our</p>

	communities. <b>RESOLVED: to note the budgetary control position presented in the Clerks' report.</b>																
<b>CO060/20</b>	<b>14. Annual Return 2019/20 – Completion of Audit</b> The Clerks report informed Council that its external auditors PKF Littlejohn had successfully completed their audit of the council's 2019/20 Annual Return and had provided the Council with a clean bill of health and did not highlight any areas of concern to draw to the attention of members. Council <b>RESOLVED TO approve and accept the Council's audited Annual Return for the financial year ended 31 March 2020 and noted that no issues were raised by the external auditors.</b>																
<b>CO061/20</b>	<b>15. Dates of Future Scheduled Meetings</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>2020</b></th> <th><b>Committee/Council</b></th> <th><b>Time</b></th> <th><b>Venue</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Wednesday 28 October</td> <td>Finance and General Purposes</td> <td>6pm</td> <td>On Line Via Zoom</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wednesday 25 November</td> <td>Full Council</td> <td>7pm</td> <td>On Line Via Zoom</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wednesday 9 December</td> <td>Finance and General Purposes</td> <td>6pm</td> <td>On Line Via Zoom</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Committee/Council</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>	Wednesday 28 October	Finance and General Purposes	6pm	On Line Via Zoom	Wednesday 25 November	Full Council	7pm	On Line Via Zoom	Wednesday 9 December	Finance and General Purposes	6pm	On Line Via Zoom
<b>2020</b>	<b>Committee/Council</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>														
Wednesday 28 October	Finance and General Purposes	6pm	On Line Via Zoom														
Wednesday 25 November	Full Council	7pm	On Line Via Zoom														
Wednesday 9 December	Finance and General Purposes	6pm	On Line Via Zoom														
	<b>EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC</b> <b>Resolved:</b> That under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting during consideration of items 15 on the Agenda as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act relating to personal staff affairs and/or commercial matters.																
<b>CO062/20</b>	<b>16. Review of Administrative Assistant Post</b> In referring to the Clerk's report Council <b>RESOLVED TO: make the current post holder a permanent employee and reduce the number of hours allocated to the post from 22 to 20 with effect from November 2020.</b>																

There being no other business on the Agenda the meeting closed at 8.23pm

Signed by the Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_