

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
NORTH AREA FORUM
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 31 JANUARY, 2007**

Present: **Representing the District of Easington**
Councillor Mrs J Maitland (Chair)

Councillors B Burn, R Davison, J Haggan,
D Myers, A Napier, C Patching, R J Todd
and C A Walker

Representing Parish/Town/ County Councils

M Davison – South Hetton Parish Council
N Wade – Durham County Council
J Walker – Seaham Town Council

Residents

D B Glover and W A Place

Apologies: Councillors J Goodwin, E Bell, B Allen,
Mrs G Bleasdale, Mrs S Mason and P J Campbell

1 CHAIR'S COMMENTS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the District Council's North Area Forum and introduced herself and the Officers present. A representative from the Customer Services Section was also present to take any individual queries or problems at the end of the meeting.

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 25 October, 2006, were **AGREED**.

3 FOLLOW UP FROM LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

(i) Excess Water - Mill Inn Bank/Lodge Garage - (Minute Number 3(i) refers)

Mr D Glover once again reported the problems at this location due to the gully being located in the wrong position.

Members were advised that at the last meeting P Penman, Environmental Services Operations Manager advised that the District Council's Highways Engineers had informed Durham County Council that the gully was in the wrong place and had been advised that works were due to be undertaken. It was explained that the District of Easington acted as Agents for Durham County Council who were currently reviewing all the gullies throughout the district.

AGREED that the information given, be noted and P Penman, Environmental Services Operations Manager be requested to refer the complaint to Durham County Council.

(ii) **Junction of North Railway Street/Vine Place - (Minute Number 3(iii) refers)**

Mr D Glover advised that to date no work had been carried out on the property at the junction of North Railway Street/Vine Place which had an old sign erected on its gable end which was deteriorating. Mr Glover was worried that the deterioration of the sign was increasing and very shortly a piece of Seaham's history would be lost forever.

Councillor C Walker advised that the matter had been referred to Seaham Town Council who had discussed the property in question with the Story of Seaham Group who were investigating the situation with a view to having the sign repaired. Councillor D Myers pointed out that this was a privately owned property and no work could be undertaken without the owners consent.

Councillor R J Todd pointed out the cost of undertaking such work. Councillor A Napier sympathised with Mr Glover and understood his concerns but reiterated that this was a privately owned property and the District Council were unable to carry out any work to the property without the owners permission.

AGREED that the information given, be noted.

(iii) **Presentation by Empty Properties Officer - (Minute Number 3(iv) refers)**

Mr D Glover queried what percentage of the properties proposed to be built on the old Seaham Colliery site were classed as affordable housing.

Councillor A Napier advised that 20% of the properties to be built at this location would cost between £65,000 to £75,000.

Mr Glover asked about ownership of an area of land at The Lawns and was advised that the land in question belonged to the District Council.

Councillor R J Todd explained that affordability varied from ward to ward, depending on land availability.

Mr Glover explained that he would like to see affordable housing built at The Lawns and Denehouse Road. He also felt that the houses demolished at The Lawns should have been retained and revitalised.

Councillor A Napier advised that the decision to demolish properties at The Lawns was only taken following full discussion and consultation and was not taken lightly

AGREED that the information given, be noted.

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(iv) **Windfarm – Seaham (Minute Number 4 (iii) refers)**

Mr D Glover queried what the current situation was in relation to the proposed wind farm at Seaham.

Mr Glover was advised that there had been no progress since the last meeting.

AGREED that the information given, be noted.

JW/MC/COM/NAF/070201
23 February 2007