

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 20th SEPTEMBER 2017** at **7.15 p.m.**

PRESENT **Councillor Wendy Hillary** and
Councillors Eddy Adam, M. Ashcroft, Derek G. Atkinson, Jim Atkinson, Kathy Beetham, P.J. Bergg, Bill Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, J. Clark, R.S. Fleming, George C. Gray, I. Gray, Mrs S. Haigh, B. Hall, Dave Hardaker, Mrs. I. Hewitson, Jed Hillary, Kate Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs S.J. Iveson, Mrs V. Raw, K. Robson, Paul Symons and Sally Symons

OFFICERS Mr A Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mr. D. Austin (Finance Manager)
Mrs. J. Thexton (Leisure Manager)
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin. Officer)

50. **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

51. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton.

52. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATION**

No dispensation requests had been received.

53. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

54. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from members of the public.

55. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming, seconded by Councillor Jed Hillary and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council on the 26th July 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

56. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had submitted a list of appointments she had attended for the period 26th July to the 20th September 2017.

The Mayor thanked Councillor J. Clark (Deputy Mayor) for deputising for her at events whilst she was away.

The Town Clerk reminded members of the 'Standards Training' which will take place at Durham County Council Offices on the 3rd October and sought final numbers for attendance.

Other training sessions to be carried out shortly would be 'Equality and Diversity'.

The Corporate and Policy Officer would be arranging training on the following:-

- Planning / Neighbourhood Plan
- Freedom of Information
- Business Risk Management

Data Protection training is currently on hold pending the outcome of the new legislation.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

57. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

(a) **Environment Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor Dave Hardaker, seconded by Councillor M. Ashcroft and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 6th September 2017 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(b) **Recreation Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor B. Hall, seconded by Councillor Jim Atkinson and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the Recreation Committee held on the 6th September 2017 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(c) **Policy and Resources Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming, seconded by Councillor M. Ashcroft and

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 13th September 2017 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

58. **2016/17 EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT**

The Finance Manager had submitted a report setting out, for approval, the external auditor's report and certificate in respect of the Council's Annual Return for the 2016/17 financial year.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the external auditor's report in respect of the 2016/17 Annual Return be received.
- (ii) That it be noted that the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislative and regulatory requirements have not been met.
- (iii) That it be noted that the auditor's comments in regard to the valuation of the Council's fixed assets, and the requirement for changes in the valuation of fixed assets be formally approved by the Council in future.
- (iv) Members wished to record their thanks to the Finance Department for the year on year excellent reports which showed how well our finances are managed.

59. **MIXED MARTIAL ARTS COMPETITION**

The Leisure Manager had submitted a report requesting members to approve that Officers further investigate and approve the use of the sports hall for Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) fight competitions.

Following a lengthy discussion setting out the 'for' and 'against' reasons for allowing this type of sport to use the Sports Hall it was:

Proposed by Councillor B. Hall and seconded by Councillor R.S. Fleming that this Council allow the use of the sports hall for Mixed Martial Arts Competitions with emphasis on it being well supervised.

A vote took place and resulted in the proposal being accepted.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That approval be granted for the use of the Sports Hall for Mixed Martial Arts Competitions.
- (iii) That Officers continue negotiations with Viper Mixed Martial Arts Club to ensure the safe use of the facilities for this sport.

60. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

Verbal reports were given by representatives on the undermentioned Outside Bodies:-

- (a) Youth Council
There had been no meetings.
- (b) County Durham Association of Local Councils
The next meeting will be the AGM in October.
- (c) Aycliffe Village Community Association
Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp gave an update on the activities of the Community Association.
- (d) Woodham Village Community Association
Councillor B.A. Clare had attended the meeting and gave an update.
- (e) Great Aycliffe and Middridge Local Council's Committee
There had been no meetings.
- (f) Larger Local Councils' Forum
There had been no meetings.
- (g) Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre
Councillor J.D. Clare gave a report on the activities being undertaken together with information on Trustees of the Centre. He informed members that the Council's representative would not be asked to attend in a Trustee status.

A proposal was given by Councillor R.S. Fleming and seconded by Councillor Bill Blenkinsopp that the Council does not send a representative to meetings of the Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre.

The proposal was agreed.

- (h) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society
Councillor I. Gray gave an update on activities to date.
- (i) Friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve
Councillor I. Gray advised on the current activities of the group and passed on the thanks of the group to the Council for the excellent play equipment which was available in their area.
- (j) Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway
Councillor Dave Hardaker gave members an update on two meetings he had attended.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the information be received.
- (ii) That this Council no longer sends a representative to meetings of the Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre and this Outside Body be removed from the Council's list of organisations requiring a Councillor representative.

CHAIRMAN.