

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 14th JUNE 2017** at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT Councillors E. Adam, M. Ashcroft, D. G. Atkinson, J. Atkinson, Kathryn Beetham, P.J. Bergg, W.M. Blenkinsopp, A.M. Chandran, Mrs B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, R.S. Fleming, G.C. Gray, I. Gray, Mrs S. Haigh, B. Hall, D. Hardaker, Mrs I. Hewitson, Mrs K. Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs S.J. Iveson, Mrs V. Raw, K. Robson, P. Symons, Mrs. S. Symons

OFFICERS Mr A Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mrs. C.A. Walton (Corporate and Policy Officer)
Mr D. Austin (Finance Manager)

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman it was proposed by Councillor B. Blenkinsopp, seconded by Councillor M. Iveson and resolved that Councillor R.S. Fleming Chair the meeting.

21. **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

22. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs. D. Bowman, J. Clark, J.P. Hillary and Mrs. W.P. Hillary

23. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATION**

No dispensation requests had been received.

24. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

25. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from members of the public.

26. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor M. Iveson and seconded by Councillor D. Harker and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Council on the 17th May 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

27. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had submitted a list of appointments she had attended for the period 17th May to 14th June 2017.

The Town Clerk reminded Members of forthcoming Member Training and requested Members who wish to attend to contact him.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

28. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

(a) **Environment Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor M. Iveson and seconded by Councillor B and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 17th May 2017 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(b) **Recreation Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor B. Hall and seconded by Councillor M. Ashcroft and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the Recreation Committee held on the 17th May 2017 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(c) **Policy and Resources Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor M. Iveson and seconded by Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp and

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 17th May 2017 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(d) **Environment Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor M. Iveson and seconded by Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 31st May 2017 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(e) **Recreation Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor B. Hall and seconded by Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the Recreation Committee held on the 31st May 2017 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(f) **Policy and Resources Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor M. Iveson and seconded by Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp and

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 7th June 2016 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

29. **PURCHASE OF CIVIC AND MEMBER ITEMS**

The Town Clerk submitted a report requesting Members' consideration in regard to replacement of the Mayor's Bicorn hat, and to the purchase of ladies' scarves emblazoned with the Council crest.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the Bicorn hat should not be replaced.
- (ii) That civic scarves be purchased.
- (iii) That the Town Clerk be authorised to decide on the appropriate number to be purchased.

30. **ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE COUNCIL'S SYSTEM OF INTERNAL CONTROL**

The Management Team submitted a report requesting Members' approval of the annual review of the effectiveness of the Council's system of internal control for the 2016/17 financial year.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the annual review of the effectiveness of the Council's system of internal control in respect of the 2016/17 financial year be approved.
- (ii) That the review be taken into account in providing the assurance required by the Council in order to approve the 2016/17 Annual Return.

31. **APPROVAL OF THE 2016/17 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

The Management Team submitted a report requesting Members' approval for the Annual Governance Statement for the 2016/17 financial year.

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the Annual Governance Statement in respect of the 2016/17 financial year, as set out in Section 1 of the 2016/17 Annual return, be approved.
- (ii) That the Annual Governance Statement for the 2016/17 financial year be signed off by the Town Clerk and the Chairman of the Council.

32. **APPROVAL OF THE 2016/17 ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS**

The Finance Manager submitted a report requesting Members' approval for the Council's Accounting Statements for the 2016/17 financial year, as set out in Section 2 of the 2016/17 Annual Return.

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) The the 2016/17 Accounting Statements set out in Section 2 of the Annual Return be approved.
- (ii) That the supporting financial documents to be submitted to the external auditors with the Annual Return be agreed.
- (iii) That the Annual Return and supporting documents be sent to the external auditor on 15th June, following approval at this meeting.
- (iv) That the 30 day public inspection period in relation to the statement of accounts commences Monday 19th June and runs until Friday 28th July.
- (v) That notice of the publication of the accounts and the public inspection rights and period be advertised in the Newton News and on the Council website on Friday 16th June.
- (vi) That following the completion of the external audit by Mazars LLP, and receipt of the signed audit opinion and certificate, the accounts be published in accordance with the statutory framework, by no later than 30th September 2017.

33. **LETTER OF COMMENDATION AND SUPPORT**

Councillor Mrs. V.M. Raw submitted a request that letters of support and commendation are sent to the Newton Aycliffe residents who were caught up in the Manchester Arena incident.

Councillor B. Hall submitted a request that a letter of condolence be sent to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea following the tower block fire.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That a letter of support and commendation be sent to the four residents identified who were involved in the Manchester Arena incident.
- (ii) That a letter of condolence is sent to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea following the tower block fire.

34. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

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

- (a) Youth Council
Councillor J Atkinson gave a report of the meeting held on 30th May 2017.
- (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 a report of the meeting held on Monday 12th June 2017.
- (d) Woodham Village Community Association
The next meeting will be on Tuesday 20th June 2017.
- (e) Great Aycliffe and Middridge Local Council's Committee
Councillor R.S. Fleming advised that he had been re-elected as Chairman, Councillor B. Hall was the representative on the GAMP Board and Councillor W. Mellors was elected as representative to the CDALC Executive.
- (f) Larger Local Councils' Forum
The Town Clerk and Councillor M. Iveson reported on matters discussed, in particular the discussions around the future funding of C/DALC and the secretary's position.
- (g) Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre
Councillor J.D. Clare reported that bookings in the centre were increasing and that the transfer from Durham County Council was being held a good practice. A special note of thanks was given to Councillor J.P. Hillary for his Mayor's Charity contribution towards repairs.
- (h) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society
Councillor I. Gray advised that the Society was doing well and looking to re-spray a vehicle which would cost around £8000.00.
- (i) Friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve
Councillor I. Gray advised that all was going well.

- (j) Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway
Councillor D. Hardaker gave a report on the most recent meeting.
- (k) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
Councillor B. Hall reminded the Members of the Council that the Referendum would take place on Thursday 22nd June 2017.
- (l) Crime and Community Safety Task Group
No meeting.

RESOLVED – that the information given from the Representatives serving on the Outside Bodies be received.

CHAIRMAN.