

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 26th JULY 2017** at 7.15 p.m.

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

OFFICERS Mr A Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mrs. C.A. Walton (Corporate and Policy Officer)
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin. Officer)

35. **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

36. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors M. Ashcroft, D.G. Atkinson, J. Clark and Mrs. I. Hewitson.

37. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATION**

No dispensation requests had been received.

38. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

39. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from members of the public.

40. **MINUTES**

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

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council on the 14th June 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to the following:-

‘Minute No. 26 – it be noted that Councillor D. Harker should be Councillor D. Hardaker as the seconder of the minute’.

41. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had submitted a list of appointments she had attended for the period 15th June to the 26th July 2017.

The Mayor gave special mention to the event at St. Mary's School and thanked members for the support at her 'At Home' which had raised £338.

The Town Clerk spoke on the recent visit to the area of representatives from NALC. The visit had been very well received with special emphasis being to 'Sheila's Garden' at St. Oswalds Park. The event had been co-hosted with Shildon Town Council

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

42. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

(a) **Environment Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor D. Hardaker, seconded by Councillor M. Iveson and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 12th July 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 M. Iveson and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the Recreation Committee held on the 12th July 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. Iveson and

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 19th July 2017 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

43. **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY POLICY REVIEW**

The Corporate and Policy Officer had submitted a report to provide members with the Equality and Diversity Policy for members to re-affirm the Town Council's commitment to equality and diversity.

It was deemed be good practice to re-affirm the Town Council's commitment on an annual basis which was originally carried out during the annual review of all policies.

An item was raised, as an equality issue, into the way that Councillor names were used in correspondence and in documents. This was the fact that lady Councillors' were predominantly called 'Mrs', 'Ms' or 'Miss' whilst the gentlemen Councillors' had only their initials prior to their surname.

Following a discussion it was suggested that all Councillors' be contacted to give their preference for the salutation of their name.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the Equality and Diversity Policy be approved.
- (iii) That a letter be forwarded to all Councillors' seeking their preference for name salutation in correspondence and documents.

44. **DURHAM LOCAL COUNCILS CHARTER**

A draft copy of the revised Charter between Durham County Council and local Councils in County Durham had been received for members to consider and make comments.

RESOLVED – that the amendments to the Charter be noted and that the document is now more easier to adhere to.

45. **CDALC – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS**

Nominations were being sought for undermentioned positions on the Executive Committee of the County Durham Association of Local Councils:-

- President of the Association
- 3 Vice Presidents
- Honorary Treasurer
- Honorary Auditor

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the information be received.
- (ii) That voting on the proposed appointments would be carried out by this Council's representatives at the Annual General Meeting.

46. **NALC – ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION 2017**

Information had been received in respect of this Council attending the annual NALC Conference to be held on the 30th and 31st October 2017 in Milton Keynes.

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the information be received.
- (ii) That this Authority be not represented at the Conference.

47. **CDALC – SECRETARIAT PROPOSAL FOR 2018/19 ONWARDS**

Information had been received with regard to the future of the Secretariat proposal for 2018/19.

Members were asked to consider the proposal for the Associations Secretariat from the 1st April 2018 as any resolution would need to be approved by Association members at the October AGM.

A lengthy discussion took place on issue in respect of the costs to local councils, the need of a person to shadow the current secretary and voting representation.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the information be noted.
- (ii) That further information be sought by the Town Clerk and Deputy Leader at the meeting of the Larger and Smaller Council Forum meeting to be held on the 27th July.
- (iii) That it be noted that as a larger local council paying a larger subscription than other councils this Authority raise the matter at a Larger Council Forum to discuss representation that reflects the size and population of the Council.

48. **DELEGATED POWERS – BAR CHARGES**

Consideration was given to delegated powers being given to Officers to implement the recommendations of the Charges Working Group in relation to bar products and charges at the Oakleaf Sports Complex.

RESOLVED – that delegated powers be given to Officers in order to implement the recommendations of the Charges Working Group in relation to bar products and charges at the Oakleaf Sports Complex.

49. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

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

- (a) Youth Council
Councillor J Atkinson gave an update on the meeting of the Youth Council.
- (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 had been unable to attend the prior because of a prior engagement.
- (d) Woodham Village Community Association
Councillor K. Henderson gave an update on the Association stating that the Committee be commended on their excellent work.

- (e) Great Aycliffe and Middridge Local Council's Committee
There had not been a meeting.
- (f) Larger Local Councils' Forum
The Town Clerk and Councillor M. Iveson would be attending the meeting on the 27th July.
- (g) Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre
Councillor J.D. Clare reported on the current position of the Youth and Community Centre following a successful Annual General Meeting.
- (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.
- (j) Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway
Councillor D. Hardaker gave members an up date from the meeting on the 6th July.
- (k) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
There had been no meeting.
- (l) Crime and Community Safety Task Group
No meetings had taken place.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the information given from the Representatives serving on the Outside Bodies be received.
- (ii) That in view of the Neighbourhood Plan being completed the Steering Group be now disbanded and removed from the Outside Bodies list.

CHAIRMAN.