

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe on **WEDNESDAY, 18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2017** at 7.15 pm.

**PRESENT:** **Councillor I Gray (Chairman)** and  
Councillors Eddy Adam, M Ashcroft, Jim Atkinson, Derek G Atkinson, Kathy Beetham, P J Bergg, Bill Blenkinsopp, Mrs D Bowman, Arun M Chandran, B A Clare, J D Clare, J Clark, Mrs M Dalton, R S Fleming, I Gray, George C Gray, Mrs S Haigh, B Hall, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, Kate Hopper, Mrs V M Raw, Ken Robson and Paul Symons

**IN ATTENDANCE** Councillor Mrs Sally Symons

**OFFICIALS** Mr D Austin (Finance Manager)  
Mr A Bailey (Town Clerk)  
Mr S Cooper (Works and Environment Manager)  
Mrs M J Robinson (Leisure & Environment Assistant)  
Mrs J Thexton (Leisure Manager)  
Mr L Williams (Grounds Maintenance Service Coordinator)

42. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Dave Hardaker, M Iveson and Mrs S J Iveson.

43. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

44. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

45. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from members of the public.

46. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R S Fleming, seconded by Councillor Jim Atkinson and

**RESOLVED** - that the minutes of the meetings of the Environment Committee held on the **6<sup>th</sup> September 2017** be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

47. **PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE**

It was proposed by Councillor Arun M Chandran, seconded by Councillor P J Bergg and

**RESOLVED** –that the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Sub-Committee held on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September and 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### 48. **ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

The Grounds Maintenance Services Coordinator submitted a report for the period ending 8<sup>th</sup> October 2017. The report advised of routine maintenance which had been undertaken as well as applications from tenants to plant trees and erect sheds and greenhouses.

**RESOLVED** –it be recommended that:

- a) The report be received.
- b) The applications to erect a shed or greenhouse on plots 39 and 40 at St Oswalds be approved.
- c) The application to plant trees and erect a shed and greenhouse on plot 9a at Clarence Chare be approved
- d) The application to plant trees on plot 14 Finchale Road be approved.

#### 49. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report to update members with environment items including cutting and baling wildflower areas and the events scheduled for the schools' October half term.

**RESOLVED** –it be recommended that:

- a) The report be received.
- b) Officers be congratulated on their response to removing debris during the recent weather conditions.

#### 50. **CEMETERIES REPORT**

The Grounds Maintenance Services Coordinator submitted a report to update Members with burials and grants of grave space.

**RESOLVED** –it be recommended that the report be received.

#### 51. **COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT AWARDS REVIEW**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report which gave suggestions on how the Community Enhancement Award, currently 'Best Front Garden' could be enhanced.

**RESOLVED** –it be recommended that:

- a) The letter be received.
- b) The categories for the Community Enhancement Awards be increased.
- c) Nominations for awards be accepted from June each year.
- d) A suitable engraved memento be awarded in place of a certificate of merit for runners up.
- e) An award evening be investigated.
- f) A plant swap be organised by officers to take place in mid June each year.

52. **FLOOD RISK – WEST PARK/ELMFIELD/WOODHAM BURN SITES**

Councillor Arun M Chandran raised an item for members to consider regarding the flood risk in the West Park, Elmfield and Woodham Burn sites.

**RESOLVED** –it be recommended that:

- a) The report be received.
- b) The Environment Agency and Durham County Council be requested to assess the situation and advise the Council of their findings.

53. **DRAFT ENVIRONMENT REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS**

The Finance Manager submitted a draft Revenue and Capital Budget for 2018/2019 for members' consideration in respect of the Environment Committee.

Members considered each section of the Budgets for the Environment Committee and

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended that the report and draft Revenue and Capital Budget figures for 2018/19 be received.

**CHAIRMAN.**