

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2012 at 7.15 p.m.**

**PRESENT**                    **Councillor Mrs. V. Raw (Chairman) and**  
Councillors W.M. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, V. Crosby, W. Curtis, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, P. Gittins, G.C. Gray, G.R. Gray, I. Gray, Mrs. J. Gray, B. Haigh, B. Hall, K. Henderson, Mrs. I. Hewitson, J.P. Hillary, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, Mrs. K. Hopper, W. Iveson and A. Warburton.

**IN ATTENDANCE** Mr. Adrian White, Head of Transport and Contract Services, (Durham County Council).  
Mr. Paul De Santis, Head of Commercial Development (Arriva North East).

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

97.    **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

98.    **OBITUARY**

The Mayor announced the sad news of the recent death of Councillor Mrs. Enid Paylor and a period of silence was observed in respect of Councillor Paylor.

99.    **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

The Town Clerk submitted the signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office for the newly appointed Councillor J.P. Hillary for the Neville Ward.

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Hillary to the meeting.

100.   **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors T.R. Bowman, Mrs. S. Haigh, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson and Mrs. A. Palmer.

101.   **MEMBERS DISPENSATION**

The Town Clerk submitted a report which provided background information in regard to Members request for a dispensation in order that members are able to discuss the setting of the Council's budget and precept due to the fact that, as residents, they are deemed to have Disclosable Pecuniary Interests under the Localism Act 2011.

The following Members submitted a joint written dispensation request:-

- (i)      Councillors S. Bambridge, W.M. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, T.R. Bowman, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, V. Crosby, W. Curtis, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, P. Gittins, G.C. Gray, G.R. Gray, I. Gray, Mrs. J. Gray, B. Haigh, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, K. Henderson, Mrs. I. Hewitson, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, J.P. Hillary, Mrs. K. Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson, Mrs. A. Palmer, Mrs. V.M. Raw and A. Warburton.

- (ii) The Disclosable Pecuniary Interest being members beneficial interest in land within the Parish.
- (iii) The Dispensation being to allow members to discuss and vote on the matter.
- (iv) The period of the dispensation being from the date of passing the resolution and ending on the day before the next 'relevant annual meeting' of the Council.
- (v) The Dispensation is sought in order to allow the Council to discuss the Council's budget and precept and vote on the same.

**RESOLVED** - That the Dispensation be granted to members.

102. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest given.

103. **BUS SERVICES – NEWTON AYCLIFFE AREA**

The Mayor welcomed Mr. Adrian White (Head of Transport and Contract Services – Durham County Council) and Mr. Paul De Santis (Head of Commercial Development – Arriva North East) to the meeting to give presentations and answer questions on Bus Services throughout the Newton Aycliffe Area.

Following the presentations and questions from members it was:

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That Mr. White and Mr. De Santis be thanked for their attendance and presentations.
- (ii) That an invitation be made for Mr. White and Mr. De Santis to attend a further meeting of the Council in some six months time to give information on any improvements to the bus services and any passenger growth.

104. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming, seconded by Councillor V. Crosby and

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

105. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had submitted a list of appointments she had attended for the period 1<sup>st</sup> November to the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012.

- (a) The Mayor gave special mention to the excellent Firework Display which had been organised. To the opening of two new shops in the Town Centre. She spoke of the excellent performance and talent of children in the Acorn Production Pantomime. She was in the process of attending Xmas Fayres, Carol Services and she reminded members of her Civic Carol Service on the 16<sup>th</sup> December.
- (b) The Town Clerk gave verbal information on the Local Council Tax Support Scheme and how it would affect Parish and Town Councils.

Parish and Town Councils had hoped that the Government, via. its consultation, would put in place a separate scheme to provide protection and certainty of funding for the sector. Unfortunately, the Government had rejected this proposal despite early indications that this would be put in place.

The result for Great Aycliffe is a reduction in the tax base of 1,729 properties.

This change to the tax base, results in a loss of tax raising ability of £350,000.

Government funding paid as a grant to Durham County Council to offset this loss to precepting authorities has provided a compensatory grant to the Town Council of £284,000 leaving a shortfall, plus the withdrawal of the double taxation grant paid to Town and Parish Councils by Durham County Council, equates to an estimated shortfall for 2013 / 2014 of £107,000.

The Town Clerk further explained that the Governments financial settlement to principle Councils would not be confirmed until an announcement on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2012.

Members were advised that the implications of the shortfall would be considered when discussions take place in order to finalise the Council's budget and set the precept for 2013 / 2014.

**RESOLVED** – that the information be received.

#### 106. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions raised by the Public.

#### 107. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

##### (a) **Environment Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor V. Crosby, seconded by Councillor A. Warburton and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2012 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 A. Warburton and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the Recreation Committee held on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2012 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 J.D. Clare and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2012 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

108. **PROPOSED WAITING & PROHIBITION RESTRICTIONS – GREENWELL ROAD**

Information had been submitted by Durham County Council on various waiting and prohibition restrictions on the link road from Greenwell Road to Burn Lane. Officers had submitted a list of questions in relation to the proposal and sought members views on the proposals.

It was proposed that the points supplied by Officers be forwarded to D.C.C., however members some members were against the proposals.

Councillors K. Henderson and B. Hall wished it to be recorded that they were against the proposals made by D.C.C.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the responses outlined be forwarded to D.C.C..
- (ii) That it be noted that Councillors K. Henderson and B. Hall were against the proposals by D.C.C.

109. **HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE – ESTATES EXCELLENCE**

The Town Clerk submitted information which had been received in support of the “Estates Excellence” initiative to raise Health and Safety Awareness on the Industrial Estate.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the Council agree to support the initiative to improve Health and Safety Awareness.

- (ii) That the Council give permission for the use of the Council's Crest and name on promotional materials.
- (iii) That the Mayor be appointed as the Council's representative to attend and support any events.

110. **WEBSITE FOR NEWTON AYCLIFFE BUSINESSES**

A request had been forwarded via. Newton Press for the Council to consider giving approval for the use of the Council's Crest and name on a Newton Aycliffe Business Website to help with the promotion of this new site.

**RESOLVED** – that permission be given for the use of the Council Crest on the understanding that a 'disclaimer' is given that the Council is not responsible for the content of the listings, promises made or the quality / reliability of the products or services offered.

111. **WELL BANK - AYCLIFFE VILLAGE**

The Town Clerk submitted a report to advise members of the progress in regards to the encroachment onto Village Green at Well Bank.

Since the matter was considered by Council at its meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012 the decorative chippings have been removed and the area re-grassed leaving a maintenance strip to the front of the property.

**RESOLVED** – that the information be received and no further action taken.

112. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

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

- (a) Youth Council  
Councillor V. Crosby gave an update and reported the next meeting would be February 2013.
- (b) County Durham Association of Local Councils (AGM)  
There had been no meetings.
- (c) Citizens Advice Bureau  
Councillor B. Hall gave information on a Social Policy Newsletter and an advice line would be going ahead.
- (d) Woodham Village Community Association  
Councillor Mrs. J. Gray gave an update on the Community Association.
- (e) Great Aycliffe and Middridge A.A.P. Local Council's Committee  
There had not been a meeting.
- (f) Larger Local Councils' Forum  
Councillor R.S. Fleming reported that an emergency meeting was scheduled to take place on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> in view of the information on the Tax Support Scheme and how it would affect Parish and Town Councils.

- (g) Lifelong Learning Committee  
No meeting had taken place.
- (h) Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre  
Councillor Mrs. K. Hopper gave an update on the Youth Centre meeting.
- (i) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society  
Councillor I. Gray gave members an update on this Society.
- (j) Health and Wellbeing Partnership Network  
No information.
- (k) Friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve  
Councillor I. Gray gave an update of an event on the 18<sup>th</sup> November when trees were planted and that another 'Royal Oak' had been planted.

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

**CHAIRMAN.**