

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 12th JANUARY 2011** at **7.15 p.m.**

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

OFFICIALS Mr A Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mr S Cooper (Environment Officer)
Mrs M J Robinson (Leisure & Environment Assistant)
Miss J Simpson (Leisure Manager)
Mr D Thompson (Works Manager)
Mrs C Walton (Corporate and Policy Officer)
Mr N Whinham (Golf Professional)

In Attendance Mr J Martin, Energy Efficiency Officer, Durham County Council.

56. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs B A Clare and T Hogan and Mrs E M Paylor.

57. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of interest were declared by Councillors Mrs S J Iveson, Mrs J Gray and Mrs D Bowman for item No 11 (Planning Applications) on the agenda as members of Durham County Council's Development Committee.

A declaration of interest was declared by Councillor R S Fleming on item No. 7 (St. Oswald's Allotment Proposed Extension) as an allotment tenant at St Oswald's Allotments.

A declaration of interest was declared by Councillor Mrs A Palmer on item No. 9 (Removal of Litter Bin – Aycliffe Village Green) as a resident in the immediate vicinity of the area in question.

58. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Councillor R S Fleming declared an interest as an allotment holder of St Oswald's Allotments and left the meeting.

Mr Peter Rogan addressed the meeting to make a statement on behalf of the residents of Hylton Close.

Mr Bailey's letter to Phil Wilson, our MP states that no alternate entrance and exit is available.

Paragraph 6 of the Planning Application asks if a new or alternative vehicle access proposed – No, To or from a highway – No, Any new roads – No, Do proposals require diversions – No. In the Pre Planning Advice section it asks Has prior advice been sought – No.

Since Hylton Close was constructed in 1960 the volume of traffic has increased significantly. Since its construction, there have been 6 pigeon lofts and 160 allotment sites created on land with no increase in traffic availability. The proposal is to add another 43 plots, increasing the risk of serious injury and damage. A recent survey carried out showed 150 – 200 vehicle movements from 5.00 am – 11.00 pm an unbelievable traffic movement. A further 43 more plots will exacerbate it to be intolerable to residents.

At a time when there are supposed to be significant economies in expenditure why are you proposing to proceed with this venture against the objections of residents at Hylton Close.

Councillor Crosby advised that the decision to accept or reject the application would be made by Durham County Council which is where their objections should be addressed to.

Mr Bailey addressed the residents to advise that the statements in the application and the letter to Mr Wilson, MP were correct. Mr Bailey explained the current situation regarding vehicular access to the A167. Mr Bailey accepted that there had been a significant increase in traffic, not only in Hylton Close, but everywhere including areas where there were schools, in this case via Washington Crescent but equally applicable in other locations.

Mr Bailey also advised that at present there may not be a decision to be made. We are aware from the letters we have received as to how the residents of Hylton Close feel. We have to wait until we hear from the planners. At the present time, this report gives you the update as to what is happening with the Planning Application.

59. **WARM HOMES CAMPAIGN**

Mr Jason Martin, the Energy Efficiency Officer for Durham County Council gave a presentation regarding the current situation regarding fuel poverty in the UK and the campaign to promote energy efficiency.

RESOLVED - that Mr Martin be thanked for his informative presentation.

60. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R S Fleming, seconded by Councillor Mrs M Dalton and

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 8th December 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

61. **ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

The Works Manager submitted his report for the six weeks ended the 2nd January 2011. The report detailed inspections and general maintenance to the allotments.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that the report be received.

62. **ST OSWALD'S ALLOTMENTS – PROPOSED EXTENSION**

Councillor R S Fleming declared an interest as an allotment holder of St Oswald's Allotments and left the meeting.

The Town Clerk submitted a report which gave information on the progress of the planning application which was submitted regarding the allotments extension at St Oswald's Allotment Site and advised that a letter of objection to the proposal had been submitted by 2 residents of Hylton Close, signed by fourteen households.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That a further report be presented when the outcome of the Planning Application is known.

63. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Works Manager and Environment Officer submitted their report for the six weeks ended the 2nd January 2011. The report set out details of the work carried out with volunteers and for schools and community groups by the Environment Officer.

The Works Manager reported on the Winter Working Partnership with Durham County Council regarding storing salt and replenishing salt bins in the Parish.

Information on burials and vandalism was also set out in the report.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that the report be received

64. **REMOVAL OF LITTER BIN – AYCLIFFE VILLAGE GREEN**

Councillor Mrs A Palmer declared an interest as a resident in the immediate vicinity of the area in question but remained in the meeting.

The Works Manager submitted a report which gave details of a resident's request to have a litter bin removed from Aycliffe Village Green.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.

- (ii) That officers carry out a survey of residents in the immediate vicinity to determine whether they would prefer to have the litter bin removed.
- (iii) That a letter be sent to resident advising of the Council's action.

65. **GRANTS OF GRAVE SPACE**

RESOLVED - that it be noted that the undermentioned grants of grave space have been issued:

West Cemetery

Grave No. R 89	Lorna Roberts
Grave No. R 90	Margaret Heaviside
Grave No. R 49	Sheila Ann Plaskett
Grave No. I 214	Sharon Sapsford

66. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Declarations of personal interests were submitted by Councillors Mrs S J Iveson, Mrs J Gray and Mrs D Bowman as members of Durham County Council but remained in the meeting during the discussion.

- (1) The Committee considered the undermentioned planning application:**
 - (a) Erection of first floor extension to side and rear – 12 Clover Court, Newton Aycliffe.
- (2) The Council received for information the undermentioned planning applications, prior notice of which had been circulated to Chairman, Vice-Chairman and appropriate Ward Members. Durham County Council has been notified that the Council has no adverse comments:-**
 - (a) Erection of two storey rear extension – 19 Heighington Street, Aycliffe Village.
 - (b) Erection of canopy to front (retrospective application) – 78 Bury Road, Newton Aycliffe.
 - (c) Erection of single storey rear extension with glazed balcony above 31 Malvern Way, Newton Aycliffe.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended:

- (i) Application 1 (a) - no objections.
- (ii) Applications 2 (a) to (c) - that the applications be received.
- (iii) That a short training session on planning for members be arranged prior to a future meeting of the Environment Committee.

CHAIRMAN.