

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 13<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2012** at **7.15 p.m.**

**PRESENT**                    **Councillor Mrs. V. Raw (Chairman) and**  
Councillors W.M. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, T.R. Bowman, Mrs. B.A. Clare, V. Crosby, W. Curtis, Mrs. M. Dalton, P. Ducker, 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, Mrs. K. Hopper, W. Iveson, Mrs. A. Palmer, Mrs. E.M. Paylor, and A. Warburton.

**IN ATTENDANCE** Ms. Kelly Mason (Policy and Research Team Leader – Livin)  
Ms. Sandra Atkinson (Communities Team Leader – Livin)

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

19.    **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

20.    **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

21.    **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**A Declaration of Personal Interest was submitted from Councillor R.S. Fleming on Agenda Item Nos. 10 (Great Aycliffe Residents Association – Police Station) and 16 (Great Aycliffe Residents Association – Litter in Great Aycliffe) as he is a Member of the GARA Executive Committee.**

22.    **PRESENTATION BY 'LIVIN'**

The Chairman welcomed Ms. Kelly Mason and Ms. Sandra Atkinson to the meeting to give an update following on from their presentation earlier in the year when they explained the production of their Plan.

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions on the presentation.

**RESOLVED** – That the Officers from 'LIVIN' be thanked for their attendance and for their presentation to update members on their production of their Plan.

23.    **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor B. Hall, seconded by Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton and

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the annual meeting of the Council held on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

24. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had submitted a list of appointments she had attended for the period 9<sup>th</sup> May to the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

The Mayor gave special mention to the Fund Raising event at the Xcel Centre, the unveiling of the Plaque and Tree Planting in Jubilee Wood and the many parties and celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The Town Clerk had received information on Stage 2 Consultation for The Isles Wind Farm which would be held from the 5<sup>th</sup> July to the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2012. Public consultations would take place in Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on the 12<sup>th</sup> July.

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

25. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

26. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

(a) **Recreation Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton, seconded by Councillor B. Hall and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2012 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(b) **Policy and Resources Committee**

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

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2012 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(c) **Environment Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor V. Crosby, seconded by Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2012 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(d) **Recreation Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor B. Hall, seconded by Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the Recreation Committee held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2012 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(e) **Policy and Resources Committee**

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

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2012 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

27. **CODE OF CONDUCT – CHANGES**

The Town Clerk submitted a report for consideration on the adoption of an appropriate version of the new Code of Conduct for Council Members following the implementation of the Localism Act 2011.

The new Code would need to be adopted from the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012 with the template from NALC being deemed as the Code for Parish and Town Councils to adopt.

Once the final Code is completed by NALC members would be issued with the declaration for signing.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the NALC version of the Code of Conduct with amendments required by “The relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 be approved.
- (iii) That the Code of Conduct be adopted from the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012.
- (iv) That members complete the appropriate paperwork required by the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2012.

28. **GREAT AYCLIFFE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

**A Declaration of Personal Interest was submitted by Councillor R.S. Fleming on this Agenda Item as he is a Member of the GARA Executive Committee, however he remained in the meeting during the discussion and voting thereon.**

Correspondence had been submitted from Great Aycliffe Residents Association seeking this Authority to support them jointly in their campaign to have a permanent Police presence in the Town Centre.

It was proposed by Councillor K. Henderson, seconded by Councillor Mrs. I. Hewitson that this Authority does not wish to engage with GARA, on this occasion, on their aim for a permanent Police presence in the Town Centre.

Voting took place and resulted as follows:

**RESOLVED** – that this Authority does not engage with GARA, on this occasion, on their aim for a permanent Police presence in the Town Centre.

29. **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS – TRAINING CONFERENCE**

Information was submitted in connection with a Training Conference on 'Renewable Energy, New Technologies and Carbon Reduction' to be held from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

**RESOLVED** – that no representative be authorised to attend this Conference.

30. **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL – LAND LICENCE**

The Town Clerk submitted a report seeking the approval of the draft licence between this Town Council and Durham County Council to formalise working on County Council land for the purpose of maintenance and environmental improvements.

The draft licence set out plans of each area which was included and would be at a 'peppercorn' fee of no cost to the Town Council. The period would be for one year, renewable yearly thereafter.

**RESOLVED** – that the licence agreement be approved and signed and sealed between the two Councils.

31. **MARKET LICENCES**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report together with licences which needed to be signed between this Council and Daejan (Durham) Ltd. and the Newton Aycliffe Market Traders Co-operative to continue with a Tuesday Market in the Town Centre.

Minor amendments had been made on the terms of the licences with both licences being for a three year period ending concurrently on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That it be agreed that the licence with Daejan (Durham) Ltd. be signed at an annual rental of £6,650.
- (ii) That it be agreed that the licence between Newton Aycliffe Market Traders Co-operative be signed at an annual rental of £11,870.
- (iii) That both licences end concurrently on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

32. **LOCALISATION OF COUNCIL TAX BENEFITS GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION PAPER**

The Finance Manager submitted a report which gave information on a consultation paper from the Department for Communities and Local Government regarding the Funding Arrangements for the Localisation of Support for Council Tax.

A proposed response on behalf of the Council to the consultation with regard to the potential impact of the proposals upon the level of Town Council Tax in 2013/14 was also attached.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the response letter on behalf of the Council be agreed and forwarded to the Department for Communities and Local Government.
- (ii) That the Town Clerk write to NALC asking them to also take up the concerns of Parish and Town Councils with the Department for Communities and Local Government

33. **AUDIT COMMISSION REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

The Finance Manager submitted a report for members to consider a request for information from the Audit Commission and to approve the proposed response on behalf of the Council.

The Audit Commission are currently in the process of undertaking the 2011/12 Audit of this Council and as part of this process they need to seek assurances from the Council about the Council's management processes and arrangements.

Copies of formal letters and a drafted response on behalf of the Council were attached for information.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the contents of the attached letter of response to the Audit Commission is approved.
- (ii) That the letter is signed by the Chairman of the Council and forwarded to the Audit Commission.

34. **GREAT AYCLIFFE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

**A Declaration of Personal Interest was submitted from Councillor R.S. Fleming on this Agenda Item as he is a Member of the GARA Executive Committee.**

Correspondence had been submitted by the Great Aycliffe Residents Association seeking a representative from this Council to attend a meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> July at St. Mary's Church when the subject of 'Litter in Great Aycliffe' would be a subject for discussion. Two representatives from Durham County Council would also be in attendance.

**RESOLVED** – that the Town Clerk be nominated to attend the meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> July in St. Mary's Church.

35. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp left the meeting at this point.

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

- (a) Youth Council  
Councillor V. Crosby gave a verbal update and also extended an invitation for members to volunteer to help with the Town Pride Environment Week from the 19<sup>th</sup> July.
- (b) County Durham Association of Local Councils (AGM)  
No Annual General Meeting.
- (c) Citizens Advice Bureau  
No report as this had been a separate discussion item on the agenda.
- (d) Woodham Village Community Association  
Councillor Mrs. J. Gray gave an update on the Association.
- (e) Great Aycliffe and Middridge A.A.P. Local Council's Committee  
Councillor R.S. Fleming gave an update on this meeting.
- (f) Larger Local Councils' Forum  
Councillor R.S. Fleming gave an update from the meeting held at Seaham.
- (g) Lifelong Learning Committee  
No meeting.
- (h) Normandy Veterans' Association  
Next meeting 24<sup>th</sup> June.
- (i) Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre  
Councillor Mrs. K. Hopper gave an update.
- (j) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society  
Councillor B. Haigh gave an update on the Society.
- (k) Health and Wellbeing Partnership Network  
Next meeting – 9<sup>th</sup> July
- (l) Friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve  
Councillor I Gray gave updating information and reminded members of their forthcoming Get Together Walk on the 21<sup>st</sup> June.

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

**CHAIRMAN.**