

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 14th DECEMBER 2011** at **7.15 p.m.**

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

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

IN ATTENDANCE Mrs. P. Birtle (General Manager, Reach Out Care / ROCSOLID)
Mrs. D. Butler (Director, Reach Out Care / ROCSOLID)

88. **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

89. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

90. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

91. **REACH OUT CARE / ROCSOLID**

Mrs. Pam Birtle, General Manager of Reach out Care / ROCSOLID was in attendance with her colleague Mrs. D. Butler to give a presentation on the work of their organisation.

She gave information on how they worked together to achieve positive outcomes for children and young people with disabilities and their families, whilst promoting individuality and independence.

There was an opportunity for members to ask questions.

RESOLVED – that Mrs. Birtle and Mrs. Butler be thanked for their attendance at the meeting and for giving such an interesting presentation which set out the admirable work which is carried out in the our community.

92. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor B. Hall, seconded by Councillor V. Crosby and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 2nd November 2011 and the Extra-ordinary meeting held on the 1st December 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

93. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had submitted a list of appointments she had attended for the period 1st November to the 13th December 2011.

The Mayor specifically spoke on the most memorable events she had attended with special emphasis on the Annual Firework Display, Remembrance Day in the Town Centre and St. Clare's and St. Andrew's Churches, the Bike presentation and all of the Carol Services.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

94. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

95. **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 1st December 2011 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 V. Crosby and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 1st December 2011 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 meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 7th December 2011 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

96. **LARGER LOCAL COUNCIL'S CONFERENCE – "NEIGHBOURING PLACES"**

The Town Clerk gave a verbal report on the Larger Local Council's Mini Conference which he had attended on the 30th November 2011.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

97. **LOCALISM ACT – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report to advise members of how the Localism Act, in particular the 'Neighbourhood Plan' would impact on the area of Great Aycliffe.

The Town Council will be able to write a Neighbourhood Plan for Great Aycliffe as the recognised body appropriate to do so. The Neighbourhood Plan will set out policies and plans for the area at a very local level and will be in general compliance with the Local Plan produced for County Durham by the County Council. The Neighbourhood Plan will indicate what sites are appropriate for housing, what type and guide design standard. A very important aspect for Great Aycliffe is that the Neighbourhood Plan will be able to state which important green spaces will be protected.

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming, seconded by Councillor V. Crosby that members consider the following issues:

- (1) That this Council informs Durham County Council that it intends to prepare a 'Neighbourhood Plan'.
- (2) That in order to start with the right foundations we task the Town Clerk to bring in an appropriate consultant to discuss with Officers and Members the way forward and give us a skeleton to work on.
- (3) That we advise community groups and organisations that the Town Council is to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan.
- (4) That the Town Clerk draws up recommendations and costings as to the employment of people to assist with the task bearing in mind that we must start as soon as possible.
- (5) That an Extra-Ordinary meeting of the Council be called and Mr. S. Timmiss, Head of Planning and Assets at Durham County Council be asked to attend to give a presentation and answer members questions.

Voting took place on the five parts of the proposal and they were agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the following actions from the proposal be agreed:-
 - (1) That this Council informs Durham County Council that it intends to prepare a 'Neighbourhood Plan'.
 - (2) That in order to start with the right foundations we task the Town Clerk to bring in an appropriate consultant to discuss with Officers and Members the way forward and give us a skeleton to work on.
 - (3) That this Council advises community groups and organisations that the Town Council is to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan.
 - (4) That the Town Clerk draws up recommendations and costings as to the employment of people to assist with the task bearing in mind that we must start as soon as possible.
 - (5) That an Extra-Ordinary meeting of the Council be called and Mr. S. Timmiss, Head of Planning and Assets at Durham County Council be asked to attend to give a presentation and answer members questions.

98. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

Councillor G.R. Gray left the meeting at this point.

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

- (a) Youth Council
Councillor V. Crosby gave an update on the Youth Council.
- (b) County Durham Association of Local Councils
There had not been any meetings.
- (c) Citizens Advice Bureau
Councillor V. Crosby gave members an update.
- (d) Woodham Village Community Association
Councillor K. Henderson gave an update on this organisation.
- (e) Great Aycliffe and Middridge A.A.P. Local Council's Committee
A meeting was to be called in the near future.
- (f) Durham Countryside Volunteers
Councillor V. Crosby gave an update on the volunteers works.
- (g) Larger Local Councils' Forum
Councillor R.S. Fleming gave an update.

- (h) Lifelong Learning Committee
There had not been a meeting.
- (i) Normandy Veterans' Association
Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton had submitted her apologies.
- (j) Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre
Councillor Mrs. K. Hopper gave an update on the Youth Centre meeting.
- (k) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society
Councillor I. Gray gave members an update.
- (l) 'The Cubby'
There had not been a meeting held.
- (m) Health and Wellbeing Partnership Network
Councillor T. Hogan had been unable to attend the last meeting.

RESOLVED – That the reports from Outside Body representatives be received.

CHAIRMAN.