

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 16th JANUARY 2013 at 7.15 p.m.**

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

IN ATTENDANCE Councillor J. Hillary

OFFICIALS Mr. A. Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mr. D. Thompson (Works Manager)
Mr. S. Cooper (Environment Officer)
Mrs. J. Thexton (Leisure Manager)
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin Officer)

47. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

48. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor R.S. Fleming declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 6 (Bee Keeping). He would remain in the meeting but would not take part in any discussions thereon.

49. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Agenda Item No. 6 (Bee Keeping)

Councillor W. Curtis gave members information in respect of bee keeping on allotment sites. He referred to the amount of hives allowed per site, training for bee keepers and also that the Council must be informed when a tenant no longer wishes to keep bees.

Mr. R. Chaplin from the Bee Keepers Association had been asked to come along to the meeting by the application to give further information in support of the application to have bee hives on one of the Clarence Chare sites. He gave members information on the type of work and training given to potential bee keepers by the Bee Keeping Association.

RESOLVED – that the information was appreciated and would be taken into account when the item was being considered.

50. **MINUTES**

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

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 28th November 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

51. **ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

The Works Manager submitted his report for the seven weeks ended the 6th January 2013. The report detailed inspections and general maintenance to the allotments together with the current waiting list for an allocation.

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

52. **BEE KEEPING**

The Works Manager submitted a detailed report in respect of an application which had been received from an allotment tenant to keep bees on his allotment site No. 29A Clarence Chare.

A draft copy of a Bee Keeping Agreement was also given for members consideration and acceptance.

Information had previously been given by a representative of the Bee Keeping Association and Councillor W. Curtis.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:-

- (i) That the Officer be thanked for the detailed report submitted and for the research he had undertaken to produce this report.
- (ii) That the Bee Keeping Agreement be approved.
- (iii) That the application to use allotment site No. 29A Clarence Chare to house bee hives be not approved.
- (iv) That bee hives be welcomed on an appropriate site although approval would need to be sought from the Allotment Manager and also tenants of adjoining allotments.

53. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Environment Officer and Works Manager submitted their report for the seven weeks ended the 6th January 2013. The report set out details of the volunteers' activities together with public and community events which had been held. Information was submitted on flooding problems in Ropery Wood and School Aycliffe Wetlands.

Information on burials and an act of vandalism to the Town Centre bus shelter window was reported.

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

54. **GRANTS OF GRAVE SPACE**

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

West Cemetery

Grave No. K 136 Frances Burdess
Grave No. K 138 Helen Clare Peacock
Grave No. I 208 Joanne Skillicorn

55. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

(1) The Committee considered the undermentioned planning application:-

(a) Increase in ridge height and installation of 1 dormer window to front and 1 dormer window to rear roof slope – 18 The Green, Aycliffe Village.

(2) To receive for information the undermentioned planning applications, prior notice of which had been circulated to all Members of the Council. Durham County Council have been notified of the listed comments on each application:-

(a) Non material amendment to approval for erection of six dwellings at Barrington Road Garages, Newton Aycliffe.

No objections.

(b) Felling of 1 Beech Tree at St. Andrew's Churchyard, Church Lane, Aycliffe Village.

No objections providing the Beech Tree is replaced with an Oak as stated.

(c) Erection of single storey side and front extension at 23 The Bridle, Woodham, Newton Aycliffe.

Although the Council have some concerns over the loss of off street parking, if the Highway Authority is satisfied with the proposal the Town Council would therefore have no objection to the proposal.

(d) Installation of 6 external cooler units on the South West elevation of Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre, Greenwell Road, Newton Aycliffe.

Although the Council have some concerns over the potential for anti-social behaviour they would offer no objection to the proposal.

(e) Felling of 1 Eucalyptus Tree at 36 The Green, Aycliffe Village.

This is a non-native species and as such the Town Council have no objections to the proposal providing the owner replaced the tree with a suitable native species.

- (f) Erection of single storey side extension – 1 Barnard Close, Newton Aycliffe.

The Council would wish to object to the proposal as the footprint of the building will exceed 50% of the original property with this additional extension, taking into account previous extensions which have been granted and built.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that:

- (i) **Application 1 (a)** – that the following comment be made to D.C.C.:

That this Council would wish to object as the proposal is not in keeping with the character and feel of the existing street scene and conservation area.

- (ii) The comments previously made on items 2 (a) to 2 (f) be noted.

CHAIRMAN.