

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 17th OCTOBER 2012 at 7.15 p.m.**

PRESENT **Councillor V Crosby** (Chairman) and
Councillors W.M. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, T.R. 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. Hilliary, Mrs. K. Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson, Mrs. A. Palmer, Mrs. V.M. Raw and A. Warburton.

IN ATTENDANCE Councillor G.R. Gray

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

29. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs. E.M. Paylor.

30. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of personal interests were submitted by Councillors P. Gittins, Mrs. J. Gray and Mrs. S.J. Iveson on agenda item No. 9 (Planning Applications) as they are members of Durham County Council.

31. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from members of the public.

32. **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 5th September 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

33. **ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

The Works Manager submitted his report for the six weeks ended the 7th October 2012. The report detailed inspections and general maintenance to the allotments together with the current waiting list for an allotment.

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

34. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Environment Officer and Works Manager submitted their report for the six weeks ended the 7th October 2012. The report set out details of the volunteers' activities together with public / community events and notified of the wildflower meadows which had been cut.

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

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

35. **GRANTS OF GRAVE SPACE**

RESOLVED - that it be noted that the undermentioned grant of grave space had been issued:

West Cemetery

Grave No. J 1(M) Lesley Frances Munshi

36. **2013/2014 DRAFT ENVIRONMENT REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS**

The Finance Manager had submitted a draft Revenue and Capital Budget for 2013/2014 for members' consideration in respect of the Environment Committee.

Members considered each section of the Budgets for the Environment Committee and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the report and draft Revenue and Capital Budget figures for 2013/14 be received.

37. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Declarations of personal interests were submitted by Councillors P. Gittins, Mrs. J. Gray and Mrs. S.J. Iveson on this item as they are members of Durham County Council, however, they would be remaining in the meeting during the discussion thereon.

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

- (a) Replacement of existing rear off shoot with single storey extension and installation of access ramp – 10 Felton Close, Newton Aycliffe.
- (b) Erection and display of 1 No. double sided internally illuminated free standing display unit. – 'Total' St. Cuthberts Way, Aycliffe Business Park, Newton Aycliffe.
- (c) Change of use from Pet Store (A1) to Café (A3) involving replacement shop front – Julies Pets, 1 Beveridge Way, Newton Aycliffe.

(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) Erection of single storey day crew plus residential accommodation for use by Newton Aycliffe Fire Station on land to the east of Newton Aycliffe Fire Station, Central Avenue, Newton Aycliffe.

In principle the Town Council would have no objection to the proposal. However an improved design would be welcomed.

Central Avenue is one of the main roads through the town and whilst it is appreciated that the design of the building has been undertaken with nearby buildings in mind to ensure a 'fit' with the local street scene the design of the building is perhaps a little utilitarian. This particular stretch of Central Avenue does not have much character and this is an opportunity to enhance the street scene rather than blend in which should not be missed. The proposal has the look of a warehouse or office building rather than living accommodation.

- (b) Installation of 1 No. fascia sign on the southern elevation of the plant 3 building and installation of 2 No. site map boards at Howden Road and Groat Road and on one free standing sign at Howden Road for Tallent Automotive, Plant 3, Aycliffe Business Park, Newton Aycliffe.

No objections

- (c) Erection of second storey pitched roof extension to the side of the existing dwelling at 4 The Stirrup, Newton Aycliffe.

No objections.

- (d) Erection of two storey side and rear extension at 47 Hamsterley Road, Newton Aycliffe.

The Town Council would object to the proposal for the following reasons:-

- The dwelling is in a prominent position in the street and the proposal will have a negative impact on the street scene.*
- The overall size is extremely large in comparison to the original dwelling footprint and it will be intrusive to the people living in 49 Hamsterley Road.*

- (e) Pitched roof over existing car wash and full height enclosure of bin store at Woodham Services Limited, Burnhill Way, Newton Aycliffe.

No objections

- (f) 3 No. banner flags mounted on flag poles displaying Woodham Academy and Woodham Sports Academy logos and mottos and contact information at Woodham Community Technology College, Washington Crescent, Newton Aycliffe.

No objections

- (g) Installation of 2 No. illuminated fascia signs and 1 No. post mounted entrance sign, Aldi Store, Greenwell Road, Newton Aycliffe.

No objections

- (h) 15% crown thin and clear of oak tree (T12) at 87 Hawkshead Place, Newton Aycliffe.

It was recommended that the Town Council is very concerned over the continued works being undertaken on mature and semi-mature trees in this area, some of which are covered by TPOs. However after reviewing previous planning applications for similar works in the same area all of which have been approved feel there is very little point in offering any objections to the proposal.

This application had already been approved prior to the consultation deadline so no response was sent.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that:

- (i) Applications 1 (a) (b) and (c) – no objections.
- (ii) Comments previously made on items 2 (a) to 2 (h) be noted.

CHAIRMAN.