

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 18th JULY 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, J.D. Clare, Mrs. M. Dalton, 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. W.P. Hillary, Mrs. K. Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson, Mrs. A. Palmer, and Mrs. E.M. Paylor.

IN ATTENDANCE Mr. P. Thompson (Chair of Durham Police Authority)
Mr. G. Ridley (Assistant Chief Officer)
Mr. M. Hall (Inspector)

OFFICIALS Mr. A. Bailey (Town Clerk)
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin. Officer)

44. **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

45. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors V. Crosby, W. Curtis, Mrs. J. Gray, Mrs. I. Hewitson and A. Warburton.

46. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest given.

47. **PRESENTATION BY DURHAM POLICE AUTHORITY**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Peter Thompson, Mr. Gary Ridley and Mr. Mark Hall to the meeting to give an update on crime figures, detection rates and anti-social behaviour. Information was also given on the current situation of a police presence in the town centre.

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

RESOLVED – As follows:-

- (i) That the Officers from the Police Authority be thanked for their attendance and for their update.
- (ii) That the Officers be asked to return to give a further update some time around September.

48. **MINUTES**

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

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on the 27th June 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

49. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had submitted a list of appointments she had attended for the period 14th June to 18th July 2012.

The Mayor gave special mention Olympic Torch Event, the Youth Centre Young Driving Instruction Day and the 'Cutting Loose' Carnival which had been held at West Park.

The Mayor also recorded her thanks to the Deputy Mayor for her attendance at three events which she had been unable to attend.

The Town Clerk reminded members of the importance of returning their Pecuniary and Other Interests forms which had to be returned before the 28th July 2012.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

50. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

51. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

(a) **Environment Committee**

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

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 4th July 2012 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 M. Iveson and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the Recreation Committee held on the 4th July 2012 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 Policy and Resources Committee held on the 11th July 2012 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted subject to the following amendment:

Minute No. 19 – (Apologies For Absence)

“That it be noted that Mrs. J. Clare should read as Mrs. J. Gray”.

52. **STANDING ORDERS CHANGES – CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Town Clerk submitted a report to enable members to consider changing the Council’s Standing orders in respect of their presence during meetings when the member had a disclosable pecuniary interest or other interest.

The changes had come about due to new arrangements being introduced from the Localism Act 2011 which regulates the conduct of members.

Members were asked to consider the adoption of a Standing Order in reference to members withdrawing from meetings when they have a “Disclosable Pecuniary Interest” and also whether it was appropriate to consider a further Standing Order in regard to members withdrawing from meetings when they have a “Non Disclosable Pecuniary Interests”.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the following Standing Order be approved:-

7.0 Code of Conduct

- (a) **All Councillors shall observe the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council.**
- (b) All Councillors shall undertake training in the Code of Conduct within 6 months of the delivery of their declaration of acceptance of office.
- (c) Councillor or co-opted members with a disclosable pecuniary interest (and for which no dispensation has been granted) will be excluded from a meeting while any discussion or vote takes place on the matter giving rise to the disclosable pecuniary interest.

53. **PLANNING APPLICATION**

Councillor Mrs. S.J. Iveson declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item and left the meeting during the discussion and voting thereon.

Consideration was given to planning application No. 7/20/0199/DM – Demolition of former Greenfields Nursing Home and Redevelopment to create 22 No. dwellings.

It was proposed by Councillor J.D. Clare, seconded by Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp that we accept the planning application and make no comments.

RESOLVED – that the application be approved and no comments made.

Councillor Mrs. S.J. Iveson returned to the meeting.

54. **THE ISLES WIND FARM**

A letter had been submitted from The Planning Inspectorate in connection with the proposed 'The Isles Wind Farm' by E.on Climate and Renewables.

The Secretary of State was consulting with this Council on the development before adopting its scoping opinion. The letter sought the following:-

- Inform the Secretary of State of the information we considered should be provided in the environmental statement, or
- Confirm that we do not have any comments.

Members considered the information and agreed that a submission should be forwarded from the Town to the Inspectorate.

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk compose an appropriate letter to the Planning Inspectorate setting out the information, 'scoping opinion' that the Town Council considers should be provided in the Environmental Statement relating to the project proposed by E.on.

55. **DURHAM AND YORKSHIRE BRANCH – SCOTS GUARDS ASSOCIATION**

A letter had been received from the Secretary of the above organisation seeking help with the organisation of Repatriation Services to servicemen who have lost their lives.

Following consideration of the request it was

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk meet with representatives of the Scots Guards Association to discuss what assistance they require.

56. **NALC – LARGER COUNCIL'S CONFERENCE 2012**

Consideration was given to the Council being represented at the 2012 Conference to be held in London on the 28th November.

RESOLVED – That the Town Clerk and Councillor J.D. Clare be authorised to attend the NALC – Larger Council's Conference in London on the 28th November 2012.

57. **INSURANCE CONTRACT – (Minutes No. 16(ii) of the Policy and Resources Committee – 30th May 2012 refers).**

The Town Clerk pointed out that Minute No. 16 (ii) of the Policy and Resources Committee Minutes date 30th May 2012 should have read that a three year contract for the Council's insurance be awarded to WPS Insurance and not, as written, five year contract.

RESOLVED – that Minute No. 16(ii) be amended to read that the insurance contract with WPS Insurance be for a three year contract.

58. **PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE**

Consideration was given to delegated powers being given to a meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee to deal with staffing at the Pre-School Learning Centres.

RESOLVED – That delegated powers be given to the Personnel Sub-Committee to make a decision on the staffing at the Pre-School Learning Centres.

59. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

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

- (a) Youth Council
Councillor Mrs. K. Hopper gave an update on the activities of the Youth Council and especially the Town Pride Environment Week which had been successful despite the weather conditions.
- (b) County Durham Association of Local Councils (AGM)
No Annual General Meeting.
- (c) Citizens Advice Bureau
Meeting to be held on the 19th July.
- (d) Woodham Village Community Association
Councillor K. Henderson gave an update on the Association.
- (e) Great Aycliffe and Middridge A.A.P. Local Council's Committee
No meeting.
- (f) Larger Local Councils' Forum
No meeting.
- (g) Lifelong Learning Committee
Councillor Mrs. D. Bowman gave an update on the activities of this Group with emphasis on the 'Cutting Loose' programme which had been organised by Katie Milne. It was agreed that a letter be forwarded to Katie Milne at Greenfield College congratulating her on the excellent work which had been carried out on this project.
- (h) Normandy Veterans' Association
Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton informed members that the last meeting of the Normandy Veterans would be held on Sunday. They would be seeking to hand over their 'Standard' to the Council on the 19th September 2012. Members agreed to refreshments being made available on this occasion.
- (i) Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre
Councillor Mrs. K. Hopper gave an update.

- (j) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society
Councillor I. Gray gave an update on the work of the Society.
- (k) Health and Wellbeing Partnership Network
Councillor Iveson had been unable to attend the meeting.
- (l) Friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve
Councillor I. Gray informed members that an 'outdoor' meeting had been organised for the 21st July.

RESOLVED – As follows:-

- (i) That the information given from the Representatives serving on Outside Bodies be received.
- (ii) That a letter be forwarded to Katie Milne at Greenfield Arts and Community College, thanking her for the excellent work on the 'Cutting Loose' Project.
- (iii) That refreshments be afforded to the members of the Normandy Veterans Association when they attend to present the Council with their 'Standard' on the 19th September, 2012.

CHAIRMAN.