

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 20th JULY 2011** at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT **Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton (Chairman) and**
Councillors W.M. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, V. Crosby, W. Curtis, P. Ducker, R.S. Fleming, P. Gittins, G.C. Gray, G.R. Gray, I. Gray, B. Haigh, B. Hall, K. Henderson, Mrs. I. Hewitson, Mrs. K. Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, 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)
Mr. D. Austin (Finance Manager)
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin. Officer)

IN ATTENDANCE Mr. G. Barker (Senior Audit Manager – Audit Commission)
Mr. P. Thompson (Chair of Durham Police Authority)
Mr. M. Barton (Deputy Chief Constable, Durham Constabulary)
Mr. I. McDonald (Chief Superintendent, Durham Constabulary)
Mr. G. Ridley (Assistant Chief Officer, Durham Constabulary)

The Chairman welcomed Mr. G. Barker from the Audit Commission, together with Mr. P. Thompson from Durham Policy Authority, and Mr. M. Barton, Mr. I. McDonald and Mr. G. Ridley from Durham Constabulary.

39. **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

40. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors T.R. Bowman, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, Mrs. J. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh and T. Hogan.

41. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

A declaration of personal interest was submitted by Councillor V. Crosby on Agenda Item No. 12 (NHS – Hyperacute Stroke Services – Public Consultation) as a Member of the D.C.C. Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

A declaration of personal interest was submitted by Councillor E.M. Paylor on Agenda Item No. 17 (Planning Application re Aycliffe Young Peoples Centre, Copelaw, Newton Aycliffe) as a Member of the D.C.C. Planning Committee.

42. **DURHAM POLICE AUTHORITY**

The representatives from the Durham Police Authority and Durham Constabulary were in attendance to give a presentation and answer questions on Policing in the Community.

Mr. P. Thompson, Chair of Durham Police Authority, opened the presentation by speaking on the role and challenge of the delivery of service.

He spoke on the re-located Police Station at Parsons Court and the fact that it was working well and that a review of the service from this site would be taken in six months time. No decision had been made on the outcome of the old Police Station in the Town Centre which was to be demolished. Mr. Thompson would visit the Council again after the six month period to give a further update to members.

Mr. M. Barton, Deputy Chief Constable, gave a presentation on the reorganisation of the constabulary to improve the service by having more officers available and cut down response times to incidents. He spoke on how crime and justice changes affected the way cell blocks would be built to be more cost affective.

Mr. G. Ridley, Assistant Chief Officer, gave information on pilot schemes being set up for a basic point of contact with the Police to be situated on sites in the town centre. This would be reviewed in 6 months time.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the officers from the Police Authority be thanked for their attendance and informative presentation which explained the new Policing.
- (ii) That an invitation be afforded to the officers to attend a further meeting of the Council in six months time to give an update on the changes.

43. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REPORT

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Gavin Barker, Senior Audit Manager from the Audit Commission to the meeting to give his Annual Governance Report and to ask the Council to sign the Letter of Representation.

Mr. Barker gave his report on the Annual Governance Report for the period 2010/11 stating that the Audit Commission had given an unqualified opinion on the financial statements and also an unqualified opinion on the Value for Money aspect of the Council.

Mr. Barker also wished to thank the officers for their assistance during the Audit and the excellent work which was undertaken on the Council's accounts.

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That Mr. Barker be thanked for his attendance to present the Annual Governance Report 2010/11.
- (ii) That the Officers and staff be thanked for the work carried out to receive an unqualified opinion on the financial statements and the Value for Money aspect of the Council.

44. APPROVAL OF THE LETTER OF REPRESENTATION

The Finance Manager submitted a report which sought approval for the signing of the 'Letter of Representation' as required by the Audit Commission following the completion of the Audit of the Accounts and the presentation of the Annual Governance Report.

The Statement of Accounts had been approved by Council on the 29th June 2011 and the Audit Commission has given the Council an unqualified audit opinion on both the financial statements and the value for money conclusion.

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the 'Letter of Representation' be approved.
- (ii) That the 'Letter of Representation' be signed by the Chairman of the Council, The Town Clerk and the Finance Manager and forwarded to the Audit Commission.
- (iii) That the notice of the completion of the Audit of Accounts be published in the local press by the 30th September 2011.
- (iv) That the thanks and appreciation of Members be recorded to the Staff for the excellent Audit results achieved.

45. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming, seconded by Councillor B. Hall and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on the 29th June 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

46. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had submitted a list of appointments she had attended for the period 9th June to the 20th July 2011.

The Mayor specifically spoke on the excellent night at the Rotary Presidents Dinner, the Fun Run and 10K Run and the Armed Forces Week. She was particularly pleased to have been able to preside at the 'Freedom of the Town' ceremony.

The Town Clerk reported on a meeting of the Town Centre Redevelopment Group which he had attended and would forward a briefing note to members for their information.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

47. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

48. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

(a) **Environment Committee**

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

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 6th July 2011 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(b) **Recreation Committee**

Councillor G.C. Gray requested a reference back to the Recreation Committee on Minute No. 27 (Provision of Picnic Benches at West Park) as he had obtained further information and a signed petition in respect of this item.

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

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 6th July 2011 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted subject to the following:

‘That the item on Picnic Benches be referred back to the next meeting of the Recreation Committee for further discussion.’

(c) **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 meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 13th July 2011 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

49. **REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES**

Information had been circulated from Durham County Council on a review of Polling Districts and Polling Places which sought members comments. The County Council was required to carry out a review on a 4 yearly cycle with the initial review taking place in 2007.

RESOLVED – that Durham County Council be notified that this Authority had no comments to make on the review.

50. **NHS – HYPERACUTE STROKE SERVICES – PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

A declaration of personal interest had been submitted by Councillor V. Crosby on this item as a Member of the D.C.C. Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, however, he would be remaining in the meeting during the discussion thereon.

Correspondence with regard to a formal consultation to seek views on proposed changes to hyperacute stroke services in County Durham and Darlington had been circulated together with copies of the public consultation leaflet and questionnaire form.

The paper gave dates of public meetings which had been organised in the area to give information on the proposal. It was felt that attendance at one of the meetings would benefit in order that the questionnaires could be completed.

RESOLVED – that members complete individual questionnaires and return them to the Hyperacute Stroke Consultation by Sunday, 11th September 2011.

51. **CDALC – 3 ‘C’s Event**

Information was given on full day training events for Councillors, Chairmen and Clerks to be held in September / October 2011.

The Town Clerk asked members to let him know whether they were interested in attending one of these training days.

RESOLVED – that members notify the Town Clerk as to whether they wish to attend the training day.

52. **CDALC – NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION**

The Council had been asked if they wished to make any nominations to the positions of Executive Committee President, three Vice-Presidents, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary auditor to serve on the CdalC Executive Committee.

RESOLVED – that the existing post holders be nominated.

53. **PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE - RESIGNATION**

Councillor K. Henderson had submitted his resignation as a member of the Planning Sub-Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming, seconded by Councillor B. Hall that Councillor Mrs. V.M. Raw be appointed as a member of the Planning Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That Councillor K. Henderson’s resignation be accepted.
- (ii) That Councillor Mrs. V.M. Raw be appointed to serve on the Planning Sub-Committee.

54. **WIND FARM**

A letter and copy of a Parliamentary Petition had been received from Mr. P. Wilson, MP, asking the Council to support the campaign. Permission was also being sought to use the Council’s Logo (Crest) on the petition as partners in the campaign.

The Town Clerk informed members that he had received a copy of the consultation proposal from E-on and it could be viewed by members in the Council Offices. Public copies were available at the Library.

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That approval be given for the use of the Council logo (crest) to support the petition from the M.P.
- (ii) That it be noted that the E-on consultation proposal was available for viewing by members in the Council Offices.

55. **PLANNING APPLICATION**

A declaration of personal interest was submitted by Councillor E.M. Paylor on this agenda item as she is a Member of the D.C.C. Planning Committee, however, she would be remaining in the meeting during the discussion thereon.

Members were asked to consider the undermentioned planning application:

“Proposed Centre for Autism comprising new build school and new build residential units plus conversion of existing buildings to form administration and residential short break accommodation – Aycliffe Youth Peoples Centre, Copelaw, Newton Aycliffe”.

A presentation was given by officers to point out the actual changes to the present site.

RESOLVED – that the Town Council fully supports the application and that the following comments be forwarded to Durham County Council.

- (i) That the development is at the rear of the site and replaces some of the existing buildings where are in poor condition.
- (ii) That the speciality unit is specifically designed to cater for the needs of autistic people and their families.
- (iii) That as Japanese Knotweed as a ‘controlled waste’ substance had been found on the site it was essential that the developers ensure that all controls are rigidly enforced to eradicate the plant.

56. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

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

- (a) Youth Council
Councillor V. Crosby gave an update on activities which the Youth Council had been involved in together with grants they had given to youth organisations.
Elections to the Youth Council would be held in September.

- (b) County Durham Association of Local Councils
Members only attended the A.G.M.
- (c) Citizens Advice Bureau
Councillor V. Crosby gave an update from the meeting.
- (d) Woodham Village Community Association
Councillor K. Henderson informed members that the meeting was being held tonight.
- (e) Great Aycliffe and Middridge A.A.P. Local Council's Committee
There had been no meeting.
- (f) Durham Countryside Volunteers
Councillor I. Gray informed the meeting that the group had organised countryside walks which were well attended.
- (g) Larger Local Councils' Forum
No meeting had been held.
- (h) Lifelong Learning Committee
There had been no meetings.
- (i) Normandy Veterans' Association
The next meeting would be on Sunday, 24th July.
- (j) Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre
Councillor Mrs. K. Hopper gave an update on the Youth Centre funding.
- (k) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society
Councillor I. Gray gave his report that the Society was running well.

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

CHAIRMAN.