

Minutes of the Meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 23<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2011 at 7.15 p.m.**

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

**OFFICIALS**    Mr A Bailey (Town Clerk)  
Mr S Cooper (Environment Officer)  
Mrs M J Robinson (Leisure & Environment Assistant)  
Miss J Simpson (Leisure Manager)  
Mr D Thompson (Works Manager)  
Mr N Whinham (Golf Professional)

67.      **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors W Curtis, Mrs J Gray, T Hogan and Mrs A Palmer,

68.      **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**Declarations of interest were declared by Councillors Mrs E M Paylor and Mrs S J Iveson for item No. 14 (Planning Applications) on the agenda as members of Durham County Council's Development Committee.**

69.      **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Mr A Chandran asked a question pertaining to the validity of the decision by members of Durham County Council's Development Committee to leave the meeting while planning issues were considered at Town Council meetings.

The Town Clerk advised that members of Durham County Council may not have to leave a meeting of the Town Council's Environment Committee under the item regarding planning applications as long as the interest is declared and it is clearly stated that they are remaining in the meeting to obtain information that will enable the principle council and that they have an open mind to the merits of the information before making a final decision at the principle council.

70.      **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R S Fleming, seconded by Councillor W M Blenkinsopp and

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

71. **ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

The Works Manager submitted a report for the six weeks ending 13<sup>th</sup> February 2011. The report gave information regarding the inspections and general maintenance to the allotments.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended that the report be received.

72. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Works Manager and Environment Officer submitted their report for the six weeks ending 13<sup>th</sup> February 2011. The report set out details of work carried out with schools, volunteers and community groups by the Environment Officer. The Works Manager reported on burials and vandalism.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended that the report be received.

73. **LORRY PARK – OAKLEAF**

A resident had raised an issue regarding deposits of human faeces in the vicinity of the lorry park and requested that a toilet facility be provided in this area for drivers.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended:

- a) That the resident be advised that an unstaffed toilet facility would not be appropriate in this location.
- b) That the Civic Pride Team be requested to inspect and if necessary clear the area of waste.
- c) That the Civic Pride Team be provided with appropriate protective clothing and equipment to enable them to carry out this work.

74. **GRITTING/SALTING**

The Town Clerk and Works Manager submitted a report which informed members of the possibility of extending joint working arrangements with Durham County Council regarding snow clearance.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended:

- a) That the report be received.
- b) That the Council agree to provide assistance.
- c) That officer's enter into further discussion with Durham County Council regarding the provision of equipment, salt and identification of designated priority footways.
- d) That the length of the working arrangements be defined.

75. **TRAIN STATION ADOPTION**

The Town Clerk submitted a report which advised of progress with the initiative to adopt Newton Aycliffe Train Station.

The report requested members to consider the adoption of Newton Aycliffe Railway Station, undertaking litter removal at the front of the station and planting bulbs in tubs provided by Network Rail. Additionally, the report advised that tree works would be undertaken and brushing of the shrub layer. Officers stressed that at no time would any member of staff work near the rail line.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended:

- a) That the report be received.
- b) That the proposal to adopt Newton Aycliffe Train Station be agreed.
- c) That the Works Section carry out the maintenance and improvement as indicated in the report with assistance from the Environment Officer and voluntary groups.

76. **ENVIRONMENTAL AREA IMPROVEMENTS – DCC PROPOSAL**

The Town Clerk submitted a report which advised members of a draft proposal to be discussed with Durham County Council regarding an initiative by Great Aycliffe Town Council to improve some environmental areas of Newton Aycliffe.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended:

- a) That the report be received.
- b) That the initiative be supported.
- c) That discussions with Durham County Council be commenced.

77. **JUBILEE WOODLAND – WOODHAM BURN**

Councillor R S Fleming advised of an initiative for woodland creation to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

Councillor Fleming proposed that copses with open spaces between be created in the area of Bousfield Crescent on the south side towards the back of Woodham Technology College.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended:

- a) That agreement in principle be given for the proposal.
- b) That officer's bring a proposal with costings to a future meeting of the Environment Committee.
- c) That officer's investigate any grant initiatives that are appropriate.

78. **GRANTS OF GRAVE SPACE**

**RESOLVED** – that it be noted that the undermentioned grants of grave space had been issued.

West Cemetery

Grave No. N 86	Freda Ewin
Grave No. R 92	Julia Jackson
Grave No. R 93	Gillian Hayward
Grave No. R 94	Jacqueline Shaw
Grave No. R 97	Julia Canmore
Grave No. R 98	Marion Stewart
Grave No. R103	Emily Charlotte Lynch

79. **PLANNING TRAINING SESSION**

The Town Clerk delivered a short presentation explaining the planning process, valid objection criteria and future training courses which are currently being planned.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended

That the Town Clerk be thanked for the information

80. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**Declarations of personal interests were submitted by Councillors Mrs E M Paylor and Mrs S J Iveson, as members of Durham County Council but remained in the meeting during the discussion.**

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

- (a) Erection of single storey rear extension – 8 Pemberton Road, Newton Aycliffe.
- (b) Siting of 4 compressor units on roof – Greenfield Convenience Store, 121 Greenlee Garth, Newton Aycliffe.
- (c) Erection of 4 Bungalows – Land at Neile Road, Newton Aycliffe.
- (d) Conversion of garage to family room – 7 Aycliffe Gates, Aycliffe Village.

**(2) The Council received for information the undermentioned planning applications, prior notice of which had been circulated to Chairman, Vice-Chairman and appropriate Ward Members. Durham County Council has been notified that the Town Council has no adverse comments except item 2(a):-**

- (a) Extension of time limit for implementing P/A 7/2007/0656/DM for an extension to the nursing home – Greenfield House, Newton Aycliffe.

Council's Comments:

1. *The building is in a poor state and is subject to anti-social behaviour which creates noise and disturbance for the nearby properties.*
2. *The poor condition of the building is having a negative impact on the surrounding area.*
3. *The building is subject to frequent police attendance to deal with a wide range of issues.*

(b) Erection of 8 No. Dwellings – Land at Elmfield Place, Newton Aycliffe.

(c) Non-material amendment for reduction in size of extension and increase in window end piers of P/A 7/2010/0331/DM – St. Josephs School, Garburn Place, Newton Aycliffe.

(d) Insertion of bi-fold door/window in rear elevation – 7 Kempton Close, Newton Aycliffe.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended:

1. Application 1(a) – 1 (b) and 1(d) – no objections.
2. Application 1(c) – that the application be supported.
3. Application 2(a) – that the Council's comments be noted.
4. Applications 2(b) – 2(d) – that the applications be received.

**CHAIRMAN**