

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **Wednesday 23rd MAY 2012** at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT **Councillor V Crosby** (Chairman) and
Councillors WM Blenkinsopp, Mrs D Bowman, TR Bowman, Mrs BA Clare, JD Clare, B Curtis, Mrs M Dalton, P Ducker, RS Fleming, P Gittins, GC Gray, I Gray, B Haigh, Mrs S Haigh, B Hall, K Henderson, Mrs K Hopper, M Iveson, Mrs SJ Iveson, W Iveson, Mrs A Palmer, Mrs EM Paylor, Mrs VM Raw and A Warburton

IN ATTENDANCE Councillor G R Gray

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)

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs J Gray and Mrs W Hillary.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of interest were declared by Councillors Mrs E M Paylor and P Gittins for item No 10 (Planning Applications) on the agenda as they are members of Durham County Council's Development Committee.

A Declaration of personal interest was declared by Councillor R S Fleming for item 6 (Allotment Report) on the agenda, as he is an allotment tenant.

3. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from members of the public.

4. **MINUTES**

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

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 4th April 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. **PLANNING SUB COMMITTEE**

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

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Sub- Committee held on the 18th April 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. **ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

A declaration of personal interest was submitted by Councillor R S Fleming as he is an allotment tenant.

The Works Manager submitted his report for the seven weeks ended the 13th May 2012. The report detailed inspections and general maintenance to the allotments. The report also advised that a trophy for the best allotment garden at each site would be presented as well as the Ken Woodhall Trophy for best overall Allotment. Additionally, the Angela Fleming Memorial Trophy would be presented for the best allotment garden at St. Oswald's Allotment Site.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that:

- i) the report be received.
- ii) that Councillor Fleming be thanked for the donation of the Angela Fleming Memorial Trophy.

7. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Works Manager submitted his report for the seven weeks ended the 13th May 2012. The report set out details of the volunteers' activities plus public events and Probation Service endeavours.

Information on burials, theft from graves and vandalism was also set out in the report.

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

8. **GRANTS OF GRAVE SPACE**

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

West Cemetery

Grave No. J 145	Ann Smith
Grave No. I 203	Susan Short
Grave No. I 204	Patricia Lindley
Grave No. K 135	Rosalind Summerbell

Stephenson Way Cemetery

Grave No. F 122	Yvonne Hailes
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9. **ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENT PROPOSAL – D.C.C. LICENCE AGREEMENT**

The Town Clerk submitted a report which updated members on the proposal and negotiations with Durham County Council regarding the proposed Environmental Initiative and subsequent licence requirements.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that the report be received

10. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Declarations of personal interests were submitted by Councillors Mrs E M Paylor and P Gittins 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 two storey side extension – 21 Hambleton Court, Newton Aycliffe.
- (b) Erection of single storey side and rear extension – 18 Newburn Court, Newton Aycliffe.
- (c) Erection of side / rear single storey extension and conversion of garage to habitable space – 19 Wilton Court, Newton Aycliffe.

(2) The Council received for information the undermentioned planning applications, prior notice of which had been circulated to all Members of the Council. Durham County Council has been notified of comments or objections as noted below each application.

- (a) Erection of two storey side extension - 39 Wilton Court, Newton Aycliffe.

In this instance the Town Council feel a two storey extension is not appropriate as it would set an undesirable precedent for other extensions of this nature which would be detrimental to the character of the street scene in this area.

- (b) Erection of Garden Room to rear elevation – 22 High Green, Woodham.

No objections

- (c) Extension to time limit to application for the erection of 5 No. industrial units – Land adjacent to 'On Tap Heating', - Hilton Road, Aycliffe Business Park.

No objections

- (d) Internal alterations to facilitate modification to existing ground floor offices and formation of training and WC facilities at first floor level, including new window openings – Bobbys Foods, Eldon Road, Aycliffe Business Park.

No objections

- (e) Erection of two storey rear extension – 1 West Terrace, Aycliffe Village.

No objections

- (f) Erection of two storey side extension – 4 Elstob Close, Newton Aycliffe.

No objections

- (g) Erection of first floor rear extension above existing utility room – 9 Egerton Grove, Newton Aycliffe

No objections

- (h) Erection of ground and first floor extension to the rear – 89 Hamsterley Road, Newton Aycliffe.

No objections

- (i) Erection of single storey rear extension to the rear – Neville Pharmacy – 6 Neville Parade, Newton Aycliffe.

The Town Council would offer no objection to the proposal, subject to there being sufficient space for refuse and recycling containers to be stored within the existing boundary of the property.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended:

- (i) Application 1 (a) to (c) – no objections.
- (ii) Applications 2 (a) to (i) - that the applications be received.

CHAIRMAN