

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 30th JANUARY 2013** at 7.15 p.m.

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

OFFICIALS Mr. A. Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mr. D. Austin (Finance Manager)
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin Officer)

113. **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

114. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs. J. Gray, W. Iveson, Mrs. A. Palmer and A. Warburton.

115. **COUNCILLOR A. WARBURTON**

A request for a 'leave of absence' dispensation due to a period of illness had been received from Councillor A. Warburton.

RESOLVED – that the absence during his period of illness be noted and accepted.

116. **MEMBERS DISPENSATION**

No dispensation requests had been received.

117. **DISPENSATION / CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Chairman took agenda item No. 11 at this point as it reflected from the previous Minute No. 116.

The Town Clerk submitted information for members consideration into the granting of dispensations to members who have declared a disclosable pecuniary interest and non-disclosable pecuniary interest on their register of interest.

Proposals were given as to how the Council could deal with dispensation requests. The Council's Constitution would require to be amended to deal with dispensations.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the Council adopt a formal dispensation procedure to be included in the Standing Orders which would indicate how dispensation requests would be dealt with.

- (ii) That dispensations are dealt with via. a written pro-forma application form, or block application if applicable to all members.
- (iii) That dispensation requests are dealt with by Committee and Council as appropriate.
- (iv) That delegated powers are given to Committees in order to deal with requests that are relevant to that Committee.
- (v) That Council deal with all other applications and, in particular, those which would affect every member of the Council.

118. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest given.

119. **MINUTES**

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

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on the 12th December 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

120. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had submitted a list of appointments she had attended for the period 13th December 2012 to the 30th January 2013.

She gave particular mention to the visit to the Ineos factory and to view the 'Aycliffe Angels' memorial situated in their grounds. The Mayor thanked Councillors Barbara Clare and John Clare for attending events during her absence.

The Mayor reminded members of her forthcoming Charity Night and the Civic Dinner.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

121. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions raised by the Public.

122. **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 16th January 2013 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 Mrs. M. Dalton and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the Recreation Committee held on the 16th January 2013 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 23rd January 2013 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted subject to the addition of Councillor V. Crosby's apologies to the minutes.

123. **CASUAL VACANCY**

The Town Clerk had submitted information in respect of a casual vacancy which has occurred in the West Ward following the death of Councillor Mrs. E.M. Paylor.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the casual vacancy is declared.
- (ii) That the Council does not co-opt to the casual vacancy and that the electors be advised as such via. the 'Notice of Vacancy'.

124. **ROYAL GARDEN PARTY**

Information had been received from the County Durham Association of Local Councils seeking nominations from Parish and Town Council's for attendance at a Royal Garden Party to be held on the 30th May 2013.

The Association had been allocated 2 places for attendance and names of all nominees would be drawn for allocation to attend.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. B.A. Clare and seconded by Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton that Councillor Mrs. Val Raw and her Partner be put forwarded for attendance at the Royal Garden Party.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That Councillor Mrs. Val Raw and her Partner be nominated for attendance at the Royal Garden Party.

- (ii) That the attendance at the Garden Party would be at no cost to this Council should Councillor Mrs. Raw be allocated places.

125. **WOODHAM ACADEMY**

Information had been submitted of a proposal by Woodham Academy to dispose of playing fields totalling approximately 5.06 acres at Woodham Academy. The school was seeking comments on the proposed installation of a full sized floodlit 3rd generation artificial football pitch from the disposal of the site.

RESOLVED – that Woodham Academy be notified that this Council would have no objections to the disposal of the playing fields and the proposed installation of floodlit artificial football pitch.

126. **POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER – COMMUNITY PANELS**

The newly elected Police and Crime Commission has indicated that he wishes to establish a series of Community Panels to monitor local policing and crime issues and represent the community safety needs of the localities that make up their area. In addition the groups will appoint community champions to represent the views of various sectors.

Each panel will comprise a maximum of 50 people which would cover parliamentary areas in a series of 7 panels.

Panel 5 would cover the Great Aycliffe area and it was proposed that the following members be nominated to serve on that Panel.

Councillors M. Iveson, J.P. Hillary, B. Hall and Mrs. D. Bowman.

A vote was requested, which resulted as follows:-

For the proposal	- 16 Votes
Against the proposal	- 9 Votes

It was therefore:-

RESOLVED – that the following Councillors be nominated to serve on Panel 5 of the proposed Community Panels.

Councillors M. Iveson, J.P. Hillary, B. Hall and Mrs. D. Bowman.

127. **APPROVAL OF 2013/14 COUNCIL PRECEPT**

The Finance Manager had submitted a report seeking approval for the setting of the Council's 2013/14 Precept and to authorise the Mayor / Chairman of the Council to sign the Precept Form for submission to Durham County Council.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the 2013/14 Council Precept of £1,271,600 be approved.

- (iii) That the Mayor / Chairman of the Council be authorised to sign the Precept Form.
- (iv) That the Precept Form be hand delivered to Durham County Council on the 31st January 2013.
- (v) That the robustness of the budget estimates and the adequacy of the Council's balances and reserves are noted.

128. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

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

- (a) Youth Council
The next meeting will be held in February.
- (b) County Durham Association of Local Councils (AGM)
There had been no meetings.
- (c) Citizens Advice Bureau
Councillor B. Hall had not been able to attend the last meeting.
- (d) Woodham Village Community Association
Councillor K. Henderson gave an update on the Community Association.
- (e) Great Aycliffe and Middridge A.A.P. Local Council's Committee
Meeting is to be held shortly.
- (f) Larger Local Councils' Forum
Meeting will take place next week.
- (g) Lifelong Learning Committee
There had been no meetings.
- (h) Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre
Councillor Mrs. K. Hopper gave an update on the Youth Centre meeting.
- (i) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society
Councillor I. Gray gave members an update on this Society.
- (j) Health and Wellbeing Partnership Network
Next meeting will be held next Tuesday.
- (k) Friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve
Councillor I. Gray gave an update on events.

RESOLVED – That the information given from the Representatives serving on the Outside Bodies be received.

CHAIRMAN.