

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 31<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2012** at **7.15 p.m.**

**PRESENT**                    **Councillor Mrs. V. Raw (Chairman) and**  
Councillors W.M. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. 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, K. Henderson, Mrs. I. Hewitson, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, Mrs. K. Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs. A. Palmer, and A. Warburton.

**IN ATTENDANCE** Mr. R. Turnbull (District Manager – Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service)  
Mr. I. Brown (Livin)  
Mr. W. Harris (Livin)  
Mr. S. Timmis (Head of Assets and Planning – D.C.C.)  
Mr. L. Oliver (Durham County Council)

**OFFICIALS**                Mr. A. Bailey (Town Clerk)  
Mrs. C. Walton (Corporate and Policy Officer)  
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin Officer)

78.    **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

79.    **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors T.R. Bowman, Mrs. J. Gray, B. Hall, W. Iveson and Mrs. E.M. Paylor.

80.    **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest given.

81.    **DURHAM AND DARLINGTON FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Robin Turnbull the District Manager from Durham and Darlington Fire and Resure Service, to the meeting to give a presentation and answer questions on Fire Station changes.

Following the presentation and questions it was:

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That Mr. Turnbull be thanked for his attendance and informative presentation.
- (ii) That it be noted that Members would be welcome to visit the Fire Station at Newton Aycliffe to obtain further information and view the changes.

82.    **LIVIN**

The Chairman introduced Mr. Ian Brown and Mr. Wayne Harris from Livin to give an update and presentation on housing proposals for the area and how they were working to provide housing for the specific needs of prospective tenants.

Time was allocated for questions from members and following which it was

**RESOLVED** – that the Officers be thanked for their attendance and for their excellent presentation.

83. **COUNTY DURHAM PLAN**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Stuart Timmiss and Mr. Leo Oliver from the Asset and Planning Department of Durham County Council, to the meeting to give a presentation on the current position with the County Durham Plan.

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions of the two officers.

**RESOLVED** – that the Officers be thanked for their presentation and answers to members questions.

84. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor V. Crosby, seconded by Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton and

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

85. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had submitted a list of appointments she had attended for the period 20<sup>th</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012.

The Mayor gave special mention to the excellent production by M.A.D. which had taken place at the Xcel Centre.

She thanked those members who had donated prizes for the raffle and attended the Charity Night in the Legion when an amount of £576 had been raised.

Thanks were also afforded to Councillor I. Gray who had donated his 'Walk' fee of £30 to the Mayor's Charity and also to Councillors Mrs. Barbara Clare and Mrs. Mary Dalton for their help and assistance.

**RESOLVED** – that the information be received.

86. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were questions to be raised by the Public.

87. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

(a) **Environment Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor V. Corsby, seconded by Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

(i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012 be received, and

(ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(b) **Recreation Committee**

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

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

(i) That the minutes of the Recreation Committee held on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 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 24<sup>th</sup> October 2012 be received, and

(ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

88. **UNADOPTED ROAD PROPOSALS – TOWN CENTRE**

An information report was submitted on the recent developments that had taken place in regard to the road link between Burn Lane and Greenwell Road.

**RESOLVED** – That the information be received.

89. **CHANGES TO BUS SERVICES – NEWTON AYCLIFFE**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report as an update in regard to changes to bus services and to report back on the response obtained by Mr. Phil Wilson MP from the Head of Transport and Contract Services. The report asked members how they wished to pursue this matter.

It was proposed by Councillor W. Curtis, seconded by Councillor R.S. Fleming, that this Council invites all persons involved with the bus services to a future meeting of the Council to discuss Aycliffe Bus Services.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

(i) That the report be received.

(ii) That a letter be forwarded to all persons involved with the bus services in Aycliffe to a meeting of the Council to discuss the service provided.

90. **GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON BUS SUBSIDY REFORM**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report and Consultation Document on Bus subsidy Reform for members to consider making a response to the consultation either Corporately or individually.

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming, seconded by Councillor W. Blenkinsopp that no response be made.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That no response is made by this Council.

91. **LOCAL PLAN PREFERRED OPTIONS - CONSULTATION**

Information had been submitted on the Town Council's response to the Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation.

The specific questions had been previously circulated and a report presented for consideration. A draft responses document had been attached as Appendix 'A' for members comments.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the responses as listed in Appendix 'A' be agreed and forwarded to Durham County Council.

92. **BOUNDARY COMMISSION**

Information from the Boundary Commission for England had been circulated together with a report seeking members response to the proposals.

Whilst members did not agree that the parliamentary boundary of Newton Aycliffe should be split by removing Shildon East, which included part of Newton Aycliffe, into the Bishop Auckland constituency they felt that nothing could be gained by making a further response.

Councillor J.D. Clare felt that he would wish to write to the Boundary Commission for England stating that we are against the split of Newton Aycliffe.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That Councillor J.D. Clare write, on behalf of the Council, to the Boundary Commission for England setting out reasons why the Council is against the split of Parliamentary Boundaries in Newton Aycliffe.

93. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

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

- (a) Youth Council  
Councillor V. Crosby gave information on the election of a new Youth Council which had taken place.
- (b) County Durham Association of Local Councils (AGM)  
The meeting would be held on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November.
- (c) Citizens Advice Bureau  
In his absence, Councillor B. Hall had forwarded a written update on the CAB.
- (d) Woodham Village Community Association  
Councillor K. Henderson spoke on this Association and that it was running well.
- (e) Great Aycliffe and Middridge A.A.P. Local Council's Committee  
There had not been a meeting.
- (f) Larger Local Councils' Forum  
Had been previously reported on the last meeting.
- (g) Lifelong Learning Committee  
No meeting had taken place.
- (h) Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre  
Councillor Mrs. K. Hopper gave an update on the Youth Centre.
- (i) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society  
Councillor I. Gray spoke on the event which had been carried out in Ryhope, Beamish and Locomotion.
- (j) Health and Wellbeing Partnership Network  
Councillor M. Iveson had been unable to attend.
- (k) Friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve  
Councillor I. Gray gave information on the working group activities.

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

94. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming, seconded by Councillor V. Crosby that it be

**RESOLVED** – that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it was, in the opinion of the Council, advisable that the public and press be excluded from the meeting.

95. **WELL BANK – AYCLIFFE VILLAGE**

The Town Clerk submitted a report and correspondence in connection with the progress in resolving the encroachment onto Aycliffe Village Green (V64) and to seek instructions on further action to take.

It was advised that Durham County Council has an Officer who deals specifically with this type of issue and it was proposed that the Officer be contacted to seek advice on the matter in question.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the Town Clerk approach the Officer at Durham County Council to obtain advice.
- (iii) That a further report be brought to Council for consideration.

96. **LETTER OF RECOGNITION**

The Mayor asked permission to forward a letter to a Newton Aycliffe Soldier, Platoon Sgt. Tony Bramham in recognition of his heroic action in Afghanistan.

**RESOLVED** – that permission be granted for the Mayor to send a suitable letter to Platoon Sgt. Tony Bramham for his heroic action in Afghanistan.

**CHAIRMAN.**