

Minutes of a Meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 4th DECEMBER 2013 at 7.15pm.**

PRESENT **Councillor R.S. Fleming (Chairman) and**
Councillors E.M. Adam, D.G. Atkinson, J. Atkinson, A.M. Chandran, N. Collinson, Mrs. M. Dalton, I. Gray, G.C. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, K. Henderson, Mrs. I. Hewitson, J.P. Hillary, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, M. Iveson, W. Iveson, Mrs. V.M. Raw and C. Wheeler.

OFFICERS Mr. A. Bailey (Town Clerk)
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin. Officer)

57. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors W.M. Blenkinsopp, R. Bowman, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, J. Clark, M.A. Dalton, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs. A. Palmer and D. Summers.

58. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

59. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

60. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from the public.

61. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor B. Hall, seconded by Councillor E. Adam and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 23rd October 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

62. **CHARGES WORKING GROUP**

Notes and recommendations from the meeting of the Charges Working Group held on the 23rd October 2013 were considered.

(i) **Cemeteries**

A copy of the Durham County Council cemetery charges was submitted for members comparison.

It was agreed that the Cemetery fees be increased by 4% to 5% to allow them to be rounded up to a workable figure.

(ii) Football Pitches

It was agreed that the cost of football pitch hire for 2014/15 be increased by 5%.

It was further agreed that a category for casual use of a football pitch be introduced at a rate of £40 per match.

(iii) Pre-School Learning Centres

Members agreed that the Pre-School fees be increased by an amount of 50p. on all charges for the 2014/15 year.

(iv) Allotments

Allotment charges are, by law, set one year in advance which means that the fees for 2014/15 had been frozen at the existing levels.

Members were asked to determine the rents for the 2015/16 year and were given a detailed schedule of proposed charges based on the size of individual allotment plots. This had been agreed at the Charges Working Group last year with a view to them being implemented in 2015/16 thereby giving the one year notice as required by law.

Concerns were raised over the tipping charges which are being paid for disposal and the amount of waste which is being accumulated on allotment sites. Details of the cost of tipping per site were set out in a separate appendix and members were asked to consider the introduction of a tipping charge to each allotment tenant.

Following discussion it was agreed that:-

The new charging system by size of plot be introduced for 2015/16.

The allotment tenants be informed at the A.G.M. that the Council **will** introduce a tipping charge in 2015/16 if there is no material reduction in the coming year to the amount of waste being disposed of at the allotment sites.

(v) Sports Complex

The Leisure Manager had made proposals for increases to fees and charges for the Sports Complex for 2014/15 and these were set out in an appendices for members consideration.

After discussion the following proposals were agreed for 2014/15:-

- Membership prices to be increased by £1 to £14.00 for adults and £8 for concessions;
- Indoor bowls prices to be increased by 25p across the range i.e. for all time bands and for both adults and juniors, members and non-members;
- Badminton and squash prices to be increased by 50p per session for adults and junior members and £1 per session for non-members;
- 5 a Side and netball prices to be increased by between £1.50 to £2 per session for adults, juniors, members and non-members;

- A new weekday daytime rate for five a side football of £25 for members and £30 for non-members;
- Prices for table tennis, function room hire, equipment hire, lockers, showers and fitness classes all to be frozen at existing levels;
- Junior coaching charges to be determined and set by the Leisure Manager for each individual coaching course held, in line with the cost of the coach, length of the course etc.
- That it be noted that the Leisure Manager is authorised to implement promotional pricing during the year.

(vi) Golf Course and Driving Range Charges

It was proposed and agreed that the annual season ticket fees for the golf course remain unchanged pending the appointment of a new Golf Manager.

That a further meeting of the Charges Working Group take place to consider proposals for charging once the Manager is appointed.

That the charges for all green fees and visiting parties be frozen for the 2014/15 season.

That Officers, in conjunction with the new Manager, be given the authority to offer special promotions during the year.

That buggy hire fees be frozen at the current prices for 2014/15.

That driving range fees are frozen at the current prices for 2014/15.

(vii) Caravan Fees

It was agreed that the caravan site fees be raised by 5% for 2014/15.

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

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the notes and recommendations be received.

63. ACCOUNTS CONTROL SHEETS

Accounts control sheets for the period 18th October to the 22nd November 2013 and the General Bank Account for October 2013 were submitted.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the accounts control sheets for the period 18th October to the 22nd November 2013 and the General Bank Account for October 2013 be received.

64. GRANTS / DONATIONS

The Town Clerk had submitted a report which gave the current donation budget for this financial year as £3,094.

The following requests had been received:

- (a) 'Woodham Village Community Centre'.
- (b) 'North East War Memorial Project'.
- (c) 'Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre'

Letter of Thanks

A letter of thanks had been received from:-

The Great North Air Ambulance – for the £200 donation.

Aycliffe Youth Council

The Youth Council donation budget was currently £1,700.

There had been no further applications considered by the Youth Council.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

(i) That the report be received.

(ii) 'Woodham Village Community Centre'

That a donation of £200 be made to the Community Centre.

(iii) 'North East War Memorial Project'

That no donation be made.

(iv) 'Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre'

That a donation of £200 be made to the Youth Centre.

(v) That the letter of thanks be noted.

(vi) That the information in connection with the Youth Council be noted.

65. **PRE-SCHOOL LEARNING CENTRES**

The Early Years Officer submitted her report in connection with attendance figures, waiting lists and voluntary contributions.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the information be received.

CHAIRMAN.