

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 4th JULY 2012 at 7.15 p.m.**

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

IN ATTENDANCE Councillor G.R. Gray

OFFICIALS Mrs. C. Walton (Corporate and Policy Officer)
Mr. S. Cooper (Environment Officer)
Miss J. Simpson (Leisure Manager)
Mr. D. Thompson (Works Manager)
Mr. N. Whinham (Golf Professional)
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin Officer)

11. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors T.R. Bowman, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, Mrs. S.J. Iveson and A. Warburton.

12. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of interests were submitted by Councillors Mrs. J. Gray, Mr. E.M. Paylor and P. Gittins on Agenda Item No. 8 (Planning Applications) as they are members of Durham County Council's Development Committee.

A Declaration of personal interest was declared by Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton on Agenda Item No. 8 (1)(b) (Planning Applications) as she is the homeowner.

13. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from members of the public.

14. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming, seconded by Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton and

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 23rd May, 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

15. **ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

The Works Manager submitted his report for the six weeks ended the 24th June 2012. The report detailed inspections and general maintenance to the allotments.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the members who attended the allotment inspections on the 20th June be thanked for their attendance.

Councillor Mrs. D. Bowman joined the meeting at this point

16. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Environment Officer and Works Manager submitted their report for the six weeks ended the 24th June 2012. The report set out details of the volunteers' activities plus public events and work carried out by the Probation Service. Information was given on the planting of trees at Woodham Burn and Aycliffe Village for the Jubilee together with the opening of Jubilee Wood.

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

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

17. **GRANTS OF GRAVE SPACE**

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

West Cemetery

Grave No. J 90	Elsie Witton
Grave No. J 121	Sara Ward
Grave No. I 193	Matthew Callaghan
Grave No. I 205	Reginald Searle

Stephenson Way Cemetery

Grave No. F 112	Ivy Ellwood
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18. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Declarations of personal interests were submitted by Councillors Mrs. J. Gray, Mrs. E.M. Paylor and P. Gittins as members of Durham County Council, however, they remained in the meeting during the discussions thereon.

(1) The Committee considered the undermentioned planning applications:

- (a) First floor extension and alterations to existing garage to create storage area including covered walkway link to garage – Bewick Crescent Surgery, Newton Aycliffe.

Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton declared a personal interest in application (b) as she is the homeowner, however, she remained in the meeting during the discussion thereon.

- (b) Proposed access ramp to front – 17 Sunningdale, Newton Aycliffe.

- (c) Proposed walk in bay window to front elevation – 14 Sharp Road, Newton Aycliffe.
- (d) Change of use of land from amenity open space to private curtilage – Land to the rear of 6 Hillfields, School Aycliffe.
- (e) Felling of 1 No. Surlus Tree – The Green, Aycliffe Village.
- (f) Proposed garage conversion and single storey conservatory to rear – 49 Pinewood Close, Newton Aycliffe.
- (g) Non illuminated free standing sign at the entrance to the site and 2 metre high non illuminated individual – lettering to the west elevation of the existing building – Tallent Automotive, Aycliffe Business Park, Newton Aycliffe.

(2) To receive for information the undermentioned planning applications, prior notice of which has been circulated to all Members of the Council. Durham County Council have been notified of the listed comments on each application:-

- (a) Demolition of garage block and erection of 6 dwellings at the Garage Court – Barrington Road, Newton Aycliffe.

No objections

- (b) Erection of conservatory to rear of 16 Humphrey Close, Newton Aycliffe.

No objections

- (c) Creation of new vehicular access and gates to the existing school – Walworth School, Bluebell Way, Newton Aycliffe.

No objections

- (d) Erection of two storey rear extension – 34 Biscop Crescent, Newton Aycliffe.

The Council would wish to object to the proposal as it is not in keeping with the character and appearance of the area which is visible from Central Avenue. The rear extension is also extremely large and will have an impact on the two adjacent properties.

- (e) Extension of time limit for application 7/2009/0132/DM for the erection of two storey front and side extension – 2 Liddell Close, Newton Aycliffe.

No objections

- (f) Erection of first floor extension over existing garages, single storey rear extension and porch to front – 17 Low Green, Newton Aycliffe.

No objections

- (g) Extension of two storey rear extension – 34 Bede Crescent, Newton Aycliffe.

No objections

- (h) Change of use of former post office to domestic garage in connection with 1 the Wynd – The Post Office, 1 The Wynd, Aycliffe Village.

No objections

RESOLVED - that it be recommended:

- (i) **Applications 1 (a) (b) (d) (f) and (g)** – no objections.
- (ii) **Application 1 (c) – 14 Sharp Road**, that the following comment be made:

The Council would wish to object to the proposal as a forward extension (which projects forward of the common building line) in this location as it would be detrimental to the character of the street and would set a precedent for other forward extensions in the area.

- (iii) **Application 1 (e) – Felling of Tree, Aycliffe Village Green**, that the following comment be made:-

The Council has no objections, however, it be pointed out that a tree would be planted to replace the one to be felled.

- (iv) **Applications 2 (a) to (h)** - that the applications and comments made be received.

CHAIRMAN