

Minutes of a Meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 5th DECEMBER 2012 at 7.15pm.**

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

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

59. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs. B.A. Clare, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming and Mrs. E.M. Paylor.

60. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

61. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from the public.

62. **CHARGES WORKING GROUP NOTES**

Notes and recommendations from the meeting of the Charges Working Group held on the 24th October 2012 were considered.

It was proposed by Councillor A. Warburton, seconded by Councillor B. Hall and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the notes and the following recommendations from the Charges Working Group be accepted:-

(i) That all fees and charges levied for the services provided by the Council for the period 2013/14 be frozen at the 2012/13 charges which had been set out in Appendix 2.

(ii) Allotments

The Charges Working Group had been asked to consider implementing a new charging system for the Allotments which would be based on the size of the plot. At the present time there are numerous sizes of allotments and a Band System by size would be a fairer system to use.

Officers circulated a proposal for the introduction of a charging system which was agreed by members. A full discussion on the proposed rental charges would take place with Allotment Tenants at the Annual General Meeting to be held on the 15th November.

Changes to allotment rents would require a twelve month notice to tenants so any changes would not be implemented until the 2014/15 rental period.

Waste disposal costs were also under review and it was proposed that the Works Department monitor and record costs of tipping from the allotment sites with a view to introducing a tipping charge for allotment tenants to reflect the cost of disposing of waste from each site.

63. **MINUTES**

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

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 24th October 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

64. **ACCOUNTS CONTROL SHEETS**

Accounts control sheets for the period 19th October 2012 to the 23rd November 2012 and the General Bank Accounts for October 2012 were submitted.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the accounts control sheets for the period 19th October 2012 to the 23rd October 2012 and the General Bank Account for October 2012 be received.

65. **GRANTS / DONATIONS**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report which gave the current donation budget for this financial year as £2,418.

The following requests for grants / donations had been received:

- (a) 'Great North Air Ambulance'
- (b) 'Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society'
- (c) 'Parish Youth and Children's Team Co-ordinator'

Aycliffe Youth Council

The Youth Council donation budget is currently £3,900.

There had been no further grants to consider.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) Great North Air Ambulance

That an amount of £200 be donated to the Great North Air Ambulance.

(iii) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society

That an amount of £200 be donated to the Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society.

(iv) Parish Youth and Children's Team Co-ordinator

That an amount of £200 be donated to the Parish Youth and Children's Team Co-ordinator.

(v) That the information supplied by the Youth Council be received.

66. **PRE-SCHOOL LEARNING CENTRE REPORT**

The Early Years Officer submitted a report setting out information with regard to the attendance figures and waiting lists.

The report also set out information on 'Staffing', 'Ofsted Inspection and Regulations – September 2013', 'Training / Information Sessions Attended' and information in respect of the recent 'Boiler Replacement at St. Oswald's.'

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the information be received and it be noted that the Pre-School Learning Centres are to be reviewed by the Service Review Working Group.

67. **DEPOT MOBILE PHONE MAST LEASE**

The Finance Manager had submitted a report for members to consider a request for the Council to consider amending the terms of the lease for the operation of a mobile telecommunications mast on the Depot site.

RESOLVED – that the current lease agreement be not amended and the lease remain as was originally agreed and signed.

68. **CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU WORKING GROUP**

To appoint a Working Group to serve on a Citizens Advice Bureau Working Group.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the appointment of a Working Group for the Citizens' Advice Bureau be made at the next Annual General Meeting of the Council in May 2013.

69. **NALC – LARGER LOCAL COUNCIL'S CONFERENCE**

Councillor J.D. Clare gave a verbal report on the recent Conference he had attended.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

CHAIRMAN.