

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 8th JUNE 2011** at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton (Chairman) and

Councillors W.M. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, Mr. T.R. Bowman, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, V.Crosby, P. Ducker, R.S. Fleming, P. Gittins, G.C. Gray, G.R. Gray, I. Gray, B. Haigh, B. Hall, Mrs. I. Hewitson, T. Hogan, Mrs. K. Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson, Mrs. A. Palmer, Mrs. E.M. Paylor, Mrs. V.M. Raw and A. Warburton.

OFFICIALS

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

19. **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

20. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors W. Curtis, Mrs. J. Gray and Mrs. S. Haigh.

21. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

22. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming, seconded by Councillor V. Crosby and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Meeting of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on the 11th May 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

23. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had submitted a list of appointments she had attended for the period 12th May to the 8th June 2011.

The Mayor specifically mentioned the Community Fair, the Veterans Badge Presentation Day and thanked Tom Hunter from the Youth Council for attending as her Consort.

The Mayor gave information on her forthcoming Mayor's At Home and information with regard to the Freedom of the Town.

The Town Clerk pointed out that he had received information from the County Durham and Cleveland County Training Partnership regarding new online tools to help Councillors, Chairmen and Clerks.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

24. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

25. **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 11th May 2011 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 M. Iveson and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 11th May 2011 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(c) **Policy and Resources Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. E.M. Paylor, seconded by Councillor J.D. Clare and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 11th May 2011 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(d) **Environment Committee 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 25th May 2011 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(e) **Recreation Committee**

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

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 25th May 2011 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(f) **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 1st June 2011 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

26. **SCRUTINY REVIEW OF AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIPS**

Information had been submitted with respect to the Review of the Area Action Partnerships which sought the Council's comments to be given in writing by the 30th June 2011 on the difference that AAPs have made in their local communities.

RESOLVED – that Members forward their individual comments to the Overview and Scrutiny Officer at D.C.C. prior to 30th June.

27. **LAND TRANSFER – SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH HOMES**

The Town Clerk submitted a report advising members of the progress with regard to the transfer of land adjacent to Baliol Green.

Sedgefield Borough Homes Board has now given approval for the transfer of the land and that the matter would now be referred to the respective Solicitors for a formal agreement to be entered into.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

28. **NALC – CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION**

Information had been submitted in respect of one day conferences on 'Communities in Action' which are to be held in three locations and members were asked to consider whether the Council should be represented at one of these events.

RESOLVED – That the Town Clerk and Deputy Leader, Councillor J.D. Clare, be authorised to attend the conference and exhibition to be held at Sheffield on the 19th July 2011.

29. **D.C.C. – THE COUNTY DURHAM PLAN – CONSULTATION PAPERS**

The Town Clerk and Corporate and Policy Officer submitted a report to provide members with information in connection with following two consultation documents which had been received from Durham County Council for comments:

(a) **Core Strategy – Policy Directions Consultation Paper – May 2011.**

The document was broken down into 4 areas for discussion:-

- **Housing** – The two identified sites and the actual housing allocation were discussed at length in addition to the future needs of the residents.
- **Economic Provision** – Members were provided with information on the allocation of sites and the fact that the information provided was out of date. If the sites already developed or allocated were taken out of the 103ha provision earmarked for Aycliffe Industrial Estate it is likely that approximately half of the 103ha would actually be available. The strategic importance in terms of location, access to road and rail and the fact that the infrastructure is already in place was stressed.
- **Retail and Town Centre** – Some points from the retail and town centre study were highlighted and it was commented that at the initial presentation where planning officers were in attendance it was stated that ‘we were stuck with the Town Centre Master Plan’.
- **Environmental Matters** – It was noted that work was still on-going in this particular area and that it looked like the Area Action Partnerships would be taking the lead on this.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED – that the following comments be forwarded to Durham County Council:

- (i) **Housing:**
 - (a) That housing allocation of 1500 for houses in and around Newton Aycliffe was insufficient bearing in mind the importance of Newton Aycliffe with its key strategic location and the potential future development of Aycliffe Industrial Estate.
 - (b) That the preferred site for development would be Aycliffe Young People’s Centre. The whole site should be allocated for future housing needs with phased releases of land.
 - (c) That Officers state the need for the County Council to make provision within the existing town boundaries for affordable housing and social housing, and for bungalows (ideally on the former Avenue and Elmfield School Playing Fields).
- (ii) **Economic Provision:**
 - (a) That the Town Council would comment that the information was out of date. Some of the sites earmarked for potential sites had already been developed and the potential allocation was therefore not correct. In the Town Council’s view the County Plan has not made sufficient provision for the growth on Aycliffe Industrial Estate.

- (b) That the economic potential of Aycliffe Industrial Estate and other areas, should not be overlooked, and would be an excellent driver for investment in County Durham and not only Durham City.
- (c) That as part of Aycliffe Industrial Estate is within the Darlington Borough Council area Durham County Council should be entering into partnership work to deliver future development of the Aycliffe Industrial Estate.

(iii) ***Retail and Town Centre Study:***

That the Retail and Town Centre Study lets down the whole County Durham Plan with regard to Newton Aycliffe. There is much future potential in and around Great Aycliffe which the Town Centre Master Plan does not take advantage. There is no vision in that respect. The County Durham Plan is intended to be in place for the next 20 years and it was felt that the Town Centre development improvements were very short sighted.

(iv) ***Environmental Matters (Green Infrastructure):***

That this Council would wish to lead, or be a major partner in this aspect of the County Durham Plan and not be just a consultee. Much of the green spaces, open areas and play areas within Great Aycliffe are provided by this Council. It was felt that in this instance the Town Council should lead on this item and not the Area Action Partnership.

(b) **“Executive Housing Study for County Durham”.**

The Executive Housing Study for County Durham provides a summary of The County Durham Plan Issues and Options Consultation which took place at the end of 2010. It asked 2 questions which were the same as submitted previously and asks that respondents explain why they chose that option or provide other options for consideration.

The questions were:

No. 18 – *The Provision of Executive Housing -*

What proportion of new housing should be developed as ‘executive’ housing?

- (A) 0.5% of the total housing requirement, i.e. 145 houses.
- (B) 0.75% of the total housing requirement, i.e. 217 houses.
- (C) 1% of the total housing requirement, i.e. 290 houses.

The Council’s initial response had been Option (C).

No. 19 – *The Location of Executive Housing-*

Where should new ‘executive’ homes be developed?

- (A) Dispersed distribution with additional executive housing in a large number of locations meeting sustainability criteria.

- (B) Allocate executive housing in a small number of locations which meet sustainability criteria and are in close proximity to high quality employment sites.
- (C) Allocate executive housing in only one or two select locations which meet sustainability criteria and in proximity to the most prestigious employment locations such as NetPark or Durham City.

The Council's initial response had been Option (B).

Following discussion and questions from members it was:

RESOLVED – That the following responses to the Executive Housing Study be forwarded to Durham County Council: -

Question 18 –

- (i) That in principle 1% would be adequate for most areas, however certain sites, including Newton Aycliffe should be allowed to have a higher percentage of executive housing.
- (ii) That the housing allocation of 1500 for Newton Aycliffe over the next 20 years with an executive housing allocation of 15 is felt not to be sufficient for Newton Aycliffe bearing in mind the importance of Newton Aycliffe, with its key strategic location and the future development of Aycliffe Industrial Estate including the proposed Hitachi development.

Question 19 -

- (i) That Option B would still be the preferred option. However it was noted that 2 different 'executive' criteria are used:
 - The D.C.C. sustainability criteria and
 - The potential purchasers criteria. It should be the buyers criteria that is used rather than the D.C.C. sustainability criteria, a mix of market preference and sustainability considerations would be a preferred option.

30. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION**

Information had been circulated from the Local Government Boundary Commission in connection with the draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements for Durham County Council. A summary of the draft recommendations and a copy of the draft plan had been circulated.

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the draft recommendations to the changes to the electoral review be agreed and be advised to the Local Government Boundary Commission.
- (ii) That members also send individual comments in support of the electoral review arrangements.

31. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

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

- (a) Youth Council
Councillor V. Crosby gave an update on activities to be undertaken by the Youth Council. The Environment Week will take place with the Schools and it was hoped that 3M and Glaxo will also be taking part. A successful bid for funding of £225 had been received from the Key Fund initiative which was used for a team building event. The Community Bus funded by Councillor Mrs. D. Bowman was used and the Youth Council wanted to thank Councillor Mrs. Bowman. Tom Hunter had escorted the Mayor on one of her civic events and was also elected as a member of the Youth Parliament.
- (b) County Durham Association of Local Councils
There had been no meetings.
- (c) Citizens Advice Bureau
The next meeting would be on the 9th June.
- (d) Woodham Village Community Association
Representatives were not available to give a report.
- (e) Great Aycliffe and Middridge A.A.P. Local Council's Committee
Councillor R.S. Fleming had been appointed as Chairman and Mrs. A. Clarke had been appointed as Vice-Chairman. Councillor B. Hall was our representative. Councillor Fleming had also been appointed as a representative to Durham County Council Local Council's Executive Committee.
- (f) Durham Countryside Volunteers
Councillor V. Crosby gave an update on the possible use of the volunteers being taken on by our Environmental Officer.
- (g) Larger Local Councils' Forum
Councillor J.D. Clare reported on the Forum and its discussions on the County Plan and the clarity on the role of Leaders which was to be an item for further discussions at the Cdal Executive.
- (h) Lifelong Learning Committee
There had been no meetings.
- (i) Normandy Veterans' Association
Councillor Mrs. Dalton had submitted her apologies to this meeting.
- (j) Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre
Councillor Mrs. K. Hopper gave information that the new Management Committee appointed were sorting out the running of the centre. They were awaiting the Audit of Accounts to be finalised and also new Standing Orders being completed.

- (k) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society
Councillor I. Gray gave his report that the Society was running well with bursary monies being received to enable the training of a driver who would be able to drive all of their vehicles.

RESOLVED – That the reports from Outside Body representatives be received.

CHAIRMAN.