

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 8th SEPTEMBER 2010 at 7.15 p.m.**

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

OFFICIALS Mr. A. Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mr. D. Thompson (Works Manager)
Mr. S. Cooper (Environment Officer)
Miss J. Simpson (Leisure Manager)
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin Officer)

IN ATTENDANCE Mr. R. Whitehouse (Community Rail Officer - The Bishop Line)

20. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson and Mrs. E.M. Paylor.

21. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of personal interests were submitted by Councillors Mrs. D. Bowman and Mrs. J. Gray on Agenda item No 12 (Planning Applications) as members of Durham County Council's Development Committee. A further declaration of personal interest was submitted by Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp on Agenda item No. 12(1(b)).

22. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from members of the public.

23. **MINUTES**

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

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 7th July 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

24. **ADOPTION OF NEWTON AYCLIFFE TRAIN STATIONS**

Mr. R. Whitehouse, Community Rail Officer, from 'The Bishop Line' was in attendance to give a presentation on community involvement in the Darlington and Bishop Auckland railway line and the adoption of train stations. (Minute No. 16 of the Environment Meeting on the 7th July referred).

Following the information presentation Mr. Whitehouse asked if members had any questions and a full discussion took place.

The adoption of the train station would be to help to enhance the aesthetic appearance of the station with the supply of planters and general tidiness. Northern Rail would be responsible for the repairs, upgrading, decoration and removal of any graffiti.

It was proposed by Councillor J.D. Clare and seconded by Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp that before any decision could be made on the adoption of the station a meeting should be held with Northern Rail to confirm what exactly would be involved financially and following which the Council could make their decision.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That Mr. Whitehouse be thanked for his informative presentation.
- (ii) That the Chairman of Environment together with appropriate officers contact Northern Rail for a meeting to obtain further information on the adoption of the train station and report back to a future meeting of this Committee in order that a decision could be made.

25. **ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

The Works Manager submitted his report for the nine weeks ended the 29th August 2010. The report detailed inspections and general maintenance to the allotments.

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

26. **ALLOTMENT CHARTER**

The Works Manager submitted a report for members to consider a re-appraisal of the Allotment Holders Charter.

The present Allotment Holder Charter has been agreed in November 1999 and the report set out the promises to allotment tenants which had been agreed in the Charter.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the Allotment Charter be left as it is with the Council offering this excellent service.

27. **BYERLEY PARK AND FINCHALE ROAD ALLOTMENT FENCING**

The Works Manager submitted a report following the site inspection held on the 17th August 2010 when members inspected the fencing at Finchale Road and Byerley Park. During the site visit at Finchale Road an additional length of fencing on the border of Central Coaches Depot had been identified for replacement. The cost of the additional fencing would be £1,212 and could be met from the existing budget provision of £6,500.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the fencing works to Byerley Park and Finchale Road together with the additional fence at Finchale Road be agreed.
- (iii) That the quotation from Rennyco Ltd., in the sum of £6,459.80 be accepted for the fence replacements.

28. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Works Manager and Environment Officer submitted their report for the nine weeks ended the 29th August 2010. The report set out details of the Environment Week and the help of volunteers who assisted with pond clearance, fencing, tree maintenance, litter collection, wild flower maintenance and revetment.

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

RESOLVED - that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the Council's thanks be expressed to everyone who had been involved in the Environment Week.

29. **GREAT AYCLIFFE WAY - LEAFLET AND INFORMATION BOARDS**

The Environment Officer submitted his report seeking Members comments on the information and text for the new Great Aycliffe Way Interpretation.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the officer be thanked for his production of the information.
- (iii) That members individually notify the Environment Officer of any additional information or comments they wish to be added to the leaflet.

30. **GRANTS OF GRAVE SPACE**

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

West Cemetery

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Grave No. I 189 | Doreen Langsley |
| Grave No. I 198 | George Smith |
| Grave No. I 213 | Jane Ann Lockey |
| Grave No. R 48 | Anthony Sweeting |
| Grave No. R 75 | Marjorie Waine |
| Grave No. R 85 | Robert Bryson |

31. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Declarations of personal interests were submitted by Councillors Mrs. J. Gray and Mrs. D. Bowman as members of Durham County Council but they remained in the meeting during the discussion.

A further Declaration of personal interest was submitted by Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp on item (1)(b) but he remained in the meeting during the discussion.

(1) The Committee considered the undermentioned planning application:

- (a) Creation of bay window to front – 141 Shafto Way, Newton Aycliffe.
- (b) Felling of Ash Tree – T1 of tree preservation Order – land to the rear of 13 – 24 Durham Road, Aycliffe Village.
- (c) Erection of sun room to side – Winterberry Cottage, Little Lane, Aycliffe Village.
- (d) Erection of extension to existing garage, first floor extension above garage, alterations to existing roof – 19 Bickford Terrace, Aycliffe Village.

(2) The Council received for information the undermentioned planning applications, prior notice of which had been circulated to Chairman, Vice-Chairman and appropriate Ward Members. Durham County Council have been notified that the Council has no adverse comments:-

- (a) Erection of single storey rear extension of hardstanding to front – 63 Bowes Road, Newton Aycliffe.
- (b) Reduction of canopy by 3 metres and crown lift to 3 metres to T13 of TPO 43/2007 – 64 Hawkshead Place, Newton Aycliffe.
- (c) Erection of pitched roof over existing front porch – 101 Bewick Crescent, Newton Aycliffe.
- (d) Application for hazardous substances consent - Stiller Warehousing & Distribution – Ridgeway, Aycliffe Industrial Park.

- (e) Erection of first floor extension to side – 1 Bramham Chase – Newton Aycliffe.
- (f) Extension of time limit for planning permission 7/2007/0268/DM – land south of Heighington Lane.
- (g) Extension of time limit for planning permission 7/2007/0324/DM – land south of Heighington Lane.
- (h) Erection of two storey side extension – 12 High Barn Road, School Aycliffe.
- (i) Erection of new entrance lobby, creation of mezzanine floor, various external alterations, installation of roof lights and proposed new external landscaping – South West Durham Training, Durham Way, Aycliffe Industrial Park.
- (j) Erection of fence to side of property (retrospective application) – 26 Temple Way, Newton Aycliffe.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended:

- (i) Application 1 (a) - that the Council's comment: "that the window should be in keeping with adjacent properties and should not have a detrimental effect on them" be reported to D.C.C.
- (ii) Application 1 (b) to (d) – no objections.
- (iii) Applications 2 (a) to (j) - that the applications be received.

CHAIRMAN.