

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 9th MARCH 2011** at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT **Councillor Mrs. D. Bowman (Chairman) and**
Councillors S. Bambridge, W.M. Blenkinsopp, T.R. Bowman, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, V. Crosby, 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. I. Hewitson, Mrs. K. Hopper, Mrs. E.M. Paylor, Mrs. V.M. Raw and A. Warburton.

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

IN ATTENDANCE Mr. J. McGargill (Durham County Council)

120. **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

121. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors G.R. Gray, T. Hogan, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson and Mrs. A. Palmer.

122. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

123. **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 Council held on the 26th January 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

124. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had submitted a list of appointments she had attended for the period 27th January 2011 to the 9th March 2011.

The Mayor made special mention to meeting the visitors from Sri Lanka and the presentations to the children of the Tai Boxing at the Youth Centre.

Special thanks were given to the Deputy Mayor and the Chairman of Recreation for assisting with appointments which the Mayor had not been able to attend.

The Town Clerk gave information on a forthcoming Larger Local Council Networking Reception to be held at Peterlee Town Council and asked for names of interested persons. There were four places to be filled.

The Town Clerk also reminded members of the training on Code of Conduct issues which was to be held on Thursday, 10th March at 6.30 p.m.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

125. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The following questions were given by Mr. A.M. Chandran:

Standing Order No. 6 – Rules of Debate – (d) Length and Content of Speeches

“Can the Town Clerk or Leader of the Council shed light on the number of times any opposition councillor or, indeed, any councillor has been stopped from speaking for more than 5 minutes on any issue or any debate?”

Councillor R.S. Fleming, Leader, responded to this question: He could not recall any instances where a member of the council had been stopped from speaking more than 5 minutes. It was also at the Chairman’s discretion to allow the speaker a longer time for speaking.

Relating to Agenda Item No. 9 – Notice of Motion – Members not on a Committee

“Is it not a fact that the Agendas for Committees show who are members of the Committee at the bottom of the agenda of each meeting thus the public and councillors and officials can see at a glance who is, and who is not, a member of that Committee. Also is it not true that if any councillor has any doubt as to who voted, they can call a named vote for transparency and clarity purposes?”

The Town Clerk confirmed that the set up of the committee was on the bottom of each agenda and also a named vote can be called for at the appropriate time.

126. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

(a) **Environment Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor V. Crosby, seconded by Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 23rd February 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 V. Crosby and

RESOLVED – as follows:

(i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 23rd February 2011 be received, and

(ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(c) **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 2nd March 2011 be received, and

(ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

127. **SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FUND**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. John McGargil from Durham County Council to the meeting to give a presentation on the Sustainable Transport Bidding Process being jointly put together by Durham Council Council and Darlington Borough Council to Government.

A Government White Paper – ‘Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon : Making Sustainable Transport Happen’ had been published on the 19th January 2011. The Department of Transport were seeking strong bids that involve partnerships with voluntary and community groups as well as Local Authorities and Area Action Partnerships.

Local Authorities were being invited to bid for funding for major package projects for economic regeneration whilst reducing carbon. The initial bid which needs to be submitted before the 18th April 2011 by Durham and Darlington would be for a package of under £5m. This would assist with the promotion of low carbon vehicles and low emissions via. electric cars and hybrid buses being introduced.

Mr. McGargill was seeking a letter of support from the Town Council for the bid.

Members asked questions and gave their ideas for better public transport to make it more attractive to use public transport instead of cars. More buses were needed for physically impaired users and more punctual services or means of letting passenger know of any delays etc.

The Leader thanked Mr. McGargill for his presentation and for listening and answering members questions.

RESOLVED – that this Authority would support Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council in making a bid for funding.

128. **NOTICE OF MOTION**

Members were asked to consider the Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor W.J. Curtis and seconded by Councillor P. Ducker.

“That for the sake of clarity and transparency to the public and other councillors, if a member of the Council is not on a committee, they sit away from the committee in session, slightly back from the tables”.

After discussion and consideration of the motion, voting took place as follows:

For the Motion - 7 Votes
Against the Motion - 17 Votes

RESOLVED – that any Councillor attending a meeting, whether on that Committee or not, can sit in the main body of the Council Chamber during that meeting.

129. **NOTICES OF MOTION**

Members were asked to consider the following two Notices of Motion submitted by Councillor K. Henderson and seconded by Councillor Mrs. J. Gray.

1. *“That the Town Council produce a Local Town Planning Plan”.*

Councillor K. Henderson spoke on his proposal for the production of a Plan.

After discussion and consideration of the motion, voting took place as follows:

For the Motion - 2 Votes
Against the Motion - 19 Votes
Absentions - 3

RESOLVED – that the production of a Local Town Planning Plan be not authorised.

Members were asked to consider a further Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor K. Henderson and seconded by Councillor Mrs. J. Gray.

2. *“That the Town Council reviews its procedure for dealing with planning applications within the statutory timescale”.*

It was advised that this matter was already receiving attention.

After discussion and consideration of the motion, voting took place as follows:

For the Motion - 24 Votes
Against the Motion - 0 Votes

RESOLVED – that the matter of a procedure to deal with planning applications within a statutory timescale would be a matter to be considered at the Annual General Meeting of the Council in May 2011.

130. **NOTICE OF MOTION**

Members were asked to consider a Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J.D. Clare and seconded by Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp.

“That the Parish Basic Allowance is not increased for the 2011 – 2012 period”.

After discussion and consideration of the motion, voting took place as follows:

For the Motion - 24 Votes
Against the Motion - 0 Votes

RESOLVED – that it be agreed that there be no increase to the Parish Basic Allowance for 2011 – 2012 period”.

131. **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS**

Notification of a Training Conference to be held from the 8th – 10th April 2011 in Scarborough on ‘The Localism Bill and The Big Society’ had been received for consideration of attendance.

It was suggested by Councillor R.S. Fleming that 2 members be appointed to attend this Conference and that this be the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council.

RESOLVED – that it be agreed that the Leader and Deputy Leader be authorised to attend this Training Conference.

132. **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS – EXECUTIVE MEETING**

Information had been received in connection with the meeting of the Executive Committee to be held on the 23rd May 2011 and seeking nominations for the positions of General Secretary and Director of Finance.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

133. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

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

(a) Youth Council

Councillor V. Crosby gave an update on the Youth Council meeting. He informed the meeting that the Youth Council had agreed that the Youth Shelter on Horndale Park should be removed. He reported that one of the Youth Council members was a Youth MP and information was available on a website.

Members thanked Councillor Crosby for his report and asked that congratulations be passed to the Youth Council for the work they were carrying out.

(b) County Durham Association of Local Councils

Councillor R.S. Fleming spoke on this meeting and also encompassed the meeting of the Larger Local Council’s Forum.

Topics which had been discussed were:

The 106 agreement from previous district councils. Information was now available on their website.

Double Taxation.

Dog Fouling and dog bins together with the bulk purchase of poop bags.

New Charter by Durham County Council.

Area Action Partnerships

- (c) Citizens Advice Bureau
Councillor M. Iveson had submitted a copy of the report of the meeting held on the 13 January for information.
In the absence of Councillor Iveson, Councillor B. Hall informed the meeting that the C.A.B. would be moving into the Pioneering Care Centre on the 1st May. They had needed to make 4 redundancies and were still short of funding.
- (d) Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership (GAMP)
No meeting.
- (e) Woodham Village Community Association
Councillor Mrs. J. Gray gave information on their last meeting. It had not been viable to apply for a liquor licence. There were still problems with the heating system. Arrangements are ongoing for the 25th Anniversary of the Association. Annual Accounts were not finalised and would be reported to the Annual General Meeting.
- (f) Great Aycliffe and Middridge A.A.P. Local Council's Committee
No meetings.
- (g) Durham Countryside Volunteers
Councillor V. Crosby reported that they were still awaiting information from Durham Council Council in respect of the Group.
- (h) Larger Local Councils' Forum
Items on this Forum had been previously given under item (b).
- (i) Lifelong Learning Committee
Councillor V. Crosby gave a report on the work of the Arts Academy and the exciting opportunities which were taking place. He spoke on the work carried out by Miss K. Milne on the wider community extended education.
Film projects and sports development and School sports were being organised.
Councillor Fleming had attended the meeting and applauded the excellent work being carried out in the arts and sports.
- (j) Normandy Veterans' Association
Councillor Mrs. Dalton had been unable to attend the meeting.
- (k) Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre
Councillor V. Crosby gave an update on a series of meetings which had been held to review the Constitution. The Annual General Meeting would be held on the 11th April.
- (l) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society
Councillor I. Gray gave a report stating that the Society was operating very well with no problems.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the reports from Outside Body representatives be received.
(ii) That Officers give the Council's congratulations to the Youth Council for their hard work.

CHAIRMAN.