

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 10<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2010** at **7.15 p.m.**

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

**OFFICIALS**                Mr A Bailey (Town Clerk)  
Mrs C Walton (Corporate and Policy Officer)  
Mrs M J Robinson (Leisure & Environment Officer)

109. **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

110. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors P Gittins, T Hogan, Mrs V M Raw and A Warburton.

111. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests were submitted from Councillors Mrs D Bowman, Mrs J Gray, Mrs S J Iveson and Mrs E M Paylor on Agenda Item No. 9 (Care Homes) as Members of Durham County Council.**

**Councillors Mrs D Bowman, Mrs J Gray, Mrs S J Iveson and Mrs E M Paylor would be leaving the meeting for this item.**

**A declaration of personal interest was declared by Councillor Mrs S J Iveson on Agenda Item 11 as a member of the Aycliffe Village Hall Association.**

112. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R S Fleming, seconded by Councillor W M Blenkinsopp and

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

113. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had submitted a list of appointments she had attended for the period 28<sup>th</sup> January 2010 to the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

The Town Clerk advised that a notice of a meeting had been received from the Police Community Consultative Group which would be held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April at Ceddesfield Hall, Sedgefield at 7.00 pm. The invitation is to meet Police Authority members and local senior police officers.

**RESOLVED** – that the information be received.

114. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Under para 12(2) of the Model Code of Conduct, Councillor G C Gray made representations in regard to the Citizens' Advice Bureau and advised that he wished members to be aware that the Bureau was to make seven staff redundant due to a shortage of funds.

115. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

(a) **Environment Committee**

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

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2010 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(b) **Recreation Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor G C Gray seconded by Councillor W M Blenkinsopp and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2010 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(c) **Policy and Resources Committee**

The following proposal was given by Councillor W Curtis and seconded by Councillor P Ducker:

“That item 120 3(c) be referred back to the Policy and Resources Committee for further consideration”

**A declaration of personal and prejudicial interest was declared by Councillor V Crosby on Agenda Item 7(c) as Chairman of the Citizens' Advice Bureau. A declaration of personal and prejudicial interest was also declared by Councillor G C Gray on Agenda Item 7(c) as a member of the Citizens' Advice Bureau.**

**Councillors V Crosby and G C Gray left the meeting for this item.**

Councillor R S Fleming gave members background information regarding grants given to the Citizens' Advice Bureau from Sedgfield Borough Council and the current situation regarding grants from Durham County Council.

Voting took place on the proposal to refer the matter back to Policy and Resources Committee for further consideration which resulted in the proposal being defeated.

It was proposed by Councillor R S Fleming, seconded by Councillor W M Blenkinsopp and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 3rd March 2010 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

**116. COUNTY DURHAM - LOCAL COUNCILS' CHARTER**

Members were requested to consider a leaflet, 'County Durham Local Councils' Charter', a summary of Durham County Council's proposals for effective partnership working.

Members were advised that a full copy of the charter was available at the Council Offices.

**RESOLVED** – That the information be received.

**117. D.C.C. CLOSURE – CARE HOMES**

**Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests were submitted from Councillors Mrs D Bowman, Mrs J Gray, Mrs S J Iveson and Mrs E M Paylor on Agenda Item No. 9 (Care Homes) as Members of Durham County Council.**

**Councillors Mrs D Bowman, Mrs J Gray, Mrs S J Iveson and Mrs E M Paylor left the meeting for this item.**

The Town Clerk submitted a report which updated members regarding the consultation process being undertaken by Durham County Council in particular relating to the potential closure of Shafto House, Newton Aycliffe.

The report recommended that members consider attending an AAP presentation and consider a formal response to the Stakeholder Questionnaire.

Following discussions it was:

**RESOLVED –**

- (i) that the report be received
- (ii) that members attend the AAP presentation meeting and register accordingly.
- (iii) that a formal response to the Stakeholder Questionnaire be considered at the Council Meeting to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2010.

118. **BOUNDARY COMMITTEE REVIEW**

The Town Clerk submitted a report which provided information received from the Boundary Committee for England regarding the Electoral Review in County Durham and proposals for Newton Aycliffe. The report requested members to decide which proposal provided for the most satisfactory electoral arrangement.

**RESOLVED – as follows:**

- (i) That the Boundary Committee for England be advised that Option Two is the preferred choice of the Council.

119. **GREAT AYCLIFFE VILLAGE HALL ASSOCIATION**

**A declaration of personal interest was also declared by Councillor Mrs S J Iveson on Agenda Item 11 as a member of the Aycliffe Village Hall Association.**

The Town Clerk submitted a letter which had been received from Aycliffe Village Hall Association. The letter questioned the validity of Great Aycliffe Town Council's need to have representation on the Association indicated that the Village Hall Association had withdrawn the Council's representation.

**RESOLVED – as follows:**

- (i) That the Town Council note that representation on the Aycliffe Village Hall Association had been withdrawn.
- (ii) That the letter from the Town Clerk advise that the Council would be pleased to appoint another representative should they wish to reconsider the matter in the future.

120. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

- (a) Great Aycliffe Village Hall Association  
Councillor W M Blenkinsopp advised that there had been a meeting but he had not attended.

- (b) County Durham Association of Local Councils  
Councillor R S Fleming advised that he had been appointed to the Executive Committee and Chairman of the Larger Local Council. He and two other members were to talk to senior members of Durham County Council regarding the Charter and Consultation, Double Taxation, Section 106 monies and incomplete arrangements from district councils, e.g. Rope Moor and the Urban Park.
- (c) Citizens Advice Bureau  
Councillor G C Gray had circulated previously an update on matters pertaining to the Citizens' Advice Bureau.
- (d) Agnew Community Centre  
Mrs S Haigh advised that the Centre was making plans for spring and summer events.
- (e) Woodham Village Community Association  
Councillor Mrs J Gray advised that the AGM was to be held on 17th March and invited members to attend.
- (f) Great Aycliffe and Middridge A.A.P. Local Council's Committee  
No Meeting
- (g) Town Centre Forum  
No Meeting
- (h) Durham Countryside Volunteers  
Councillor I Gray advised that no progress had been made.
- (i) Larger Local Councils' Forum  
No Meeting.
- (j) Lifelong Learning Committee  
Councillor V Crosby advised that they were continuing with arts development. He advised that Mrs K Milne of Greenfield Community and Arts Centre was prepared to make a presentation to the Council if required.
- (k) Normandy Veterans' Association  
Mrs M Dalton advised that she had been unable to attend the meeting.
- (l) Woodham Community Technology College Forum Meeting  
No Meeting.
- (m) Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre  
No Meeting
- (n) Youth Council  
Councillor V Crosby updated members regarding the current situation regarding distribution of grant aid by the Youth Council. Councillor Crosby also advised that Tom Hunter had stood for the UK Youth Parliament for Darlington but had been defeated. Councillor Crosby asked that members consider sending a letter to Tom in recognition of the considerable effort he put into his campaign.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- (i) That the information be received.
- (ii) That Mrs K Milne be invited to the Annual Town Meeting to make a presentation.
- (iii) That a letter of recognition be sent to Tom Hunter.

**CHAIRMAN.**