

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 27<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2010** at **7.15 p.m.**

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

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

96.    **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

97.    **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs. D. Bowman, T.R. Bowman, G.C. Gray, G.R. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, T. Hogan and A. Warburton.

98.    **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**Declarations of Personal Interests were submitted from Councillors P. Gittin, Mrs. J. Gray and Mrs. S.J. Iveson on Agenda Item No. 12 (D.C.C. Closure of Care Homes) as Members of Durham County Council.**

**Councillor P. Gittins would be remaining in the meeting during the discussion.**

**Councillors Mrs. J. Gray and Mrs. S.J. Iveson would be leaving the meeting for this item.**

99.    **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 16<sup>th</sup> December 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

100. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had submitted a list of appointments she had attended for the period 17<sup>th</sup> December 2009 to the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

The Mayor spoke on the success and support she had received at her Civic Carol Service and for the condolence cards and wishes she had been sent.

The Mayor also thanked Councillor I. Gray for his donation of £60 to her charity from guided walk fees from two walks organised around the Great Aycliffe Way.

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

101. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

No public questions had been received.

102. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

(a) **Environment Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor V. Crosby, seconded by Councillor I Gray and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2010 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 13<sup>th</sup> January 2010 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 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010 be received subject to the following amendment:

Minute No. 108 (i) (Grants / Donations)

That the wording be amended to read:

“Members of the Council may also individually donate a bottle for the raffle”.

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

103. **ROYAL GARDEN PARTY 2010**

An invitation to nominate a representative to attend a Royal Garden Party in 2010 had been received from County Durham Association of Local Councils.

The Council had previously nominated the Deputy Mayor to attend, however, the Deputy Mayor had previously attended a Garden Party and would not be eligible.

**RESOLVED** – that on this occasion the Council would not make a nomination for attendance at a Royal Garden Party in 2010.

104. **D.C.C. – (GAMP) – FORUM EVENT SUMMARY REPORT**

A summary report had been received following the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership Forum Event held on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009 for members information.

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

105. **CDALC – FUTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

A copy of John Denham's speech to The Royal Society of Arts on The Future of Local Government had been circulated for information.

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

106. **2010 / 2011 COUNCIL PRECEPT**

The Finance Manager had submitted a report seeking approval for the setting of the Council's 2010/2011 Precept and to authorise the Mayor of the Council to sign the Precept Form.

The report also provided Members with information on the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of the Council's balances and reserves in accordance with Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- (i) That the Council's Precept for 2010/2011 be set at £1,623,000.
- (ii) That the Mayor be authorised to sign the Precept Form for its submission to Durham County Council.
- (iii) That the robustness of the budget estimates and the adequacy of the Council's balances and reserves be accepted.

107. **D.C.C. CLOSURE – CARE HOMES**

**Declarations of Personal Interests were submitted from Councillors P. Gittin, Mrs. J. Gray and Mrs. S.J. Iveson on Agenda Item No. 12 (D.C.C. Closure of Care Homes) as Members of Durham County Council. Councillor P. Gittins would be remaining in the meeting during the discussion.**

**Councillors Mrs. J. Gray and Mrs. S.J. Iveson would be leaving the meeting for this item.**

Members had previously been circulated with a copy of a report from Rachael Shimmin (Corporate Director of Adult Well Being and Health) and Councillor Morris Nicholls (Portfolio Member for Adult Services) at Durham County Council.

The Report set out details and recommendations on residential care services for older people in the County of which one of the homes under consideration for closure was Shafto House.

Members were being asked to give their individual comments on the proposals through the public consultation which will be taking place.

In order for members to be fully aware of all aspects of the proposals it was felt that representatives of the County Council be invited to address the Council on this review of residential services.

Following discussions it was:

**RESOLVED** – that representatives of Durham County Council be invited to attend a meeting of this Council to give a presentation to explain the aspects of the Review of Residential Care Homes and Older Peoples' Services in order that members can submit their comments to the Consultation.

#### 108. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

- (a) Great Aycliffe Village Hall Association  
No Meeting had been notified – Representative requested the Town Clerk to write to the Village Hall Association in connection the frequency of meetings and their Committee Membership.
- (b) County Durham Association of Local Councils  
No meeting.
- (c) Citizens Advice Bureau  
Councillor V. Crosby updated members on this committee.
- (d) Agnew Community Centre  
No meeting.
- (e) Woodham Village Community Association  
Councillor Mrs. J. Gray gave members an update.
- (f) Great Aycliffe and Middridge A.A.P. Local Council's Committee  
No meeting.
- (g) Town Centre Forum  
No meetings taking place at this time.
- (h) Durham Countryside Volunteers  
There had been no response from D.C.C. on this organisation.

- (i) Larger Local Councils' Forum  
The next meeting is scheduled for 12 February 2010.
- (j) Lifelong Learning Committee  
No meeting.
- (k) Normandy Veterans' Association  
Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton gave her report.
- (l) Woodham Community Technology College Forum Meeting  
No meeting.
- (m) Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre  
No report.
- (n) Youth Council  
Councillors V. Crosby reported that the next meeting was scheduled for the 5<sup>th</sup> February at the Youth Centre.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- (i) That the information be received.
- (ii) That the Town Clerk write to the Great Aycliffe Village Hall Association seeking information on the frequency of meetings and the current Committee Membership of their Association.

**CHAIRMAN.**