

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 2nd NOVEMBER 2011** at **7.15 p.m.**

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

OFFICIALS Mr. A. Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mrs. C. Walton (Corporate & Policy Officer)
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin. Officer)
Mrs. M.J. Robinson (Leisure and Environment Officer)

IN ATTENDANCE Mr. I. Bloomfield (Senior Low Carbon Officer – D.C.C.)

71. **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

72. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors R.S. Fleming, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson and Mrs. V.M. Raw.

73. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

74. **SOLAR PANELS**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Ian Bloomfield to the meeting to give a presentation on the use of Solar Panels.

The Town Clerk had also produced a report which set out information on three quotations for the installation of Solar Panels on the Council Offices roof together with comparison costs on the quotations.

Information had been received that, in order to receive the maximum return from the use of the panels they needed to be fitted and in use by the 12th December.

Mr. Bloomfield gave a breakdown on the use and benefits of the Solar Panels and answered members questions.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That Mr. Bloomfield be thanked for his attendance and presentation.
- (ii) That members agreed to the installation of Solar Panels to the roof of the Council Offices.

- (iii) That the quotation from Barrier Power in the sum of £61,350 be agreed.
- (iv) That Officers be instructed to proceed immediately with the installation of the Panels to obtain the most cost effective tariff before the 12 December 2011.

75. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor B. Hall, seconded by Councillor V. Crosby and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 21st September 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

76. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had submitted a list of appointments she had attended for the period 20th September to the 31st October 2011.

The Mayor specifically spoke on the most memorable events she had attended with special emphasis on the Brazilian Visitors, the MAD Production at the Excel Centre, Judging of the Firework Posters, St. John Ambulance Curry Lunch, the opening of the new Funeral Directors Office at Cobblers Hall shops.

The Town Clerk informed members that large amounts of consultation documents were being received from Government and Durham County Council. He proposed to send the information to members for their attention and that they could either individually reply to the consultation or notify this Office for us to reply on their behalf.

The Town Clerk also reported that he had circulated a leaflet in respect of the future of the Standards of Conduct of Members of Local Councils in England for information.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

77. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

78. **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 19th October 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 19th October 2011 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(c) **Policy and Resources Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor J.D. Clare, seconded by Councillor V. Crosby and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 26th October 2011 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

Councillor Mrs. D. Bowman arrived at the meeting.

79. **WEBSITE – PRE-LAUNCH VIEWING**

The Leisure and Environment Assistant, Mrs. M. Robinson, was in attendance to give members a demonstration of the new website which would go live on Friday, 4th November 2011.

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That it be noted that the new website would go 'live' on the 5th November 2011
- (i) That Mrs. Robinson be thanked for the excellent work she had carried out with the new website preparation.

80. **BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND**

Councillor G.R. Gray left the meeting during the discussion on this item.

The Town Clerk had submitted information from the Boundary Commission for England on its proposals for the reviewing of Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries in England for members to consider a response to the consultations.

Members were asked to consider their views and either reply to the Boundary Commission as a whole or for members to individually forward their comments.

Members considered the information and maps which showed the proposed boundaries and that Aycliffe was being proposed to be in the Sedgefield and Yarm

County Council and also the fact that Thickley Park in Shildon had been placed in the Aycliffe area and it was felt that this was not appropriate.

Following a lengthy discussion it was proposed by Councillor J.D. Clare and seconded by Councillor T. Hogan that the following proposals be forwarded to the Boundary Commission for consideration.

- (a) That this Council asks that the Parliamentary Constituency of Newton Aycliffe should be part of Durham County Council boundaries.
- (b) That it is not felt appropriate to include the Thickley Park boundary into this Constituency.
- (c) That the words 'Great Aycliffe' should be entered into the Constituency title.

The Chairman asked for each item to be voted on individually and resulted in a unanimous decision for these comments to be put forward to the Boundary Commission.

RESOLVED – as follows:

That the Town Clerk write to the Boundary Commission with the following comments:

- (a) That this Council asks that the Parliamentary Constituency of Newton Aycliffe should be part of Durham County Council boundaries.
- (b) That it is not felt appropriate to include the Thickley Park boundary into this Constituency.
- (c) That the words 'Great Aycliffe' should be entered into the Constituency title.

81. **PENSION SCHEME - CONSULTATION**

Information had been circulated from NALC on a consultation on the proposed increased to employee contribution rates and changes to scheme accrual rates effective from 1 April 2012 in England and Wales.

After discussion it was

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the Town Clerk write to the Government expressing that this Council feels that pension contracts already in place should be honoured and that they do not agree with the amendments.
- (ii) That the Town Clerk also writes to NALC with their comments.

82. **COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY**

The Corporate and Policy Officer had submitted a report to provide members with the consultation document regarding the proposals and draft regulations for reform for the Community Infrastructure Levy for consideration and comment.

Members were asked to consider the questions and proposed responses which Officers had attached as an appendix to the document.

The Community Infrastructure Levy consultation document provides this Council with an opportunity to influence future planning considerations within the Parish.

Following discussion on each question an agreed response was formulated to return to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That Officers be requested to submit the responses formulated to the questions.

83. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

(1)(a) 'The Cubby'

A request had been received from 'The Cubby' for the Council to nominate a representative to serve on their Committee.

The Chairman asked for nominations for this appointment.

It was proposed by Councillor J.D. Clare, seconded by Councillor B. Hall that Councillor R.S. Fleming be nominated as the representative to serve on 'The Cubby.'

(1)(b) NHS – Health Networks

A request had been received for a representative to be nominated to serve on the Health and Wellbeing Partnership Network.

The Chairman asked for nominations for this appointment.

It was proposed by Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp, seconded by Councillor Mrs. I. Hewitson that Councillor Blenkinsopp be nominated to serve on the Health Network.

It was further proposed by Councillor W. Curtis, seconded by Councillor P. Ducker that Councillor T. Hogan be nominated to serve on the Health Network.

Following a vote Councillor T. Hogan was appointed as the representative to serve on the Health and Wellbeing Partnership Network.

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

(a) Youth Council

Councillor V. Crosby gave information on events held by the Youth Council and their elections.

- (b) County Durham Association of Local Councils
Councillor J.D. Clare gave an update on the AGM.
- (c) Citizens Advice Bureau
Councillor V. Crosby gave members an update.
- (d) Woodham Village Community Association
Councillor Mrs. J. Gray gave a report on works being carried out at the Centre.
- (e) Great Aycliffe and Middridge A.A.P. Local Council's Committee
There had been no meetings.
- (f) Durham Countryside Volunteers
Councillor V. Crosby gave information on this group.
- (g) Larger Local Councils' Forum
Next meeting would be the 6th November 2011.
- (h) Lifelong Learning Committee
No-one had been available to attend the meeting.
- (i) Normandy Veterans' Association
Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton gave an update.
- (j) Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre
Councillor Mrs. K. Hopper gave a detailed update on the Youth Centre meeting.
- (k) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society
Councillor I. Gray gave members an update.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That Councillor R.S. Fleming be appointed as representative to serve on 'The Cubby'.
- (ii) That Councillor T. Hogan be appointed as representative to serve on 'The Health and Wellbeing Partnership Network'.
- (iii) That the reports from Outside Body representatives be received.
- (iv) That the Council's thanks be forwarded to Josh Watson for the excellent work he has carried out with the B. & Q. Youth Board.
- (v) That Tom Hunter be also thanked for his work with the Youth Council.

CHAIRMAN.