

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 25th MAY 2016** at **7.15 p.m.**

PRESENT **Councillor A M Chandran** (Chairman) and
Councillors E Adam, M Ashcroft, D G Atkinson, J Atkinson,
PJ Bergg, W M Blenkinsopp, JD Clare, J Clark, N
Collinson, Mrs M Dalton, M A Dalton, R S Fleming, I Gray,
G C Gray, Mrs S Haigh, B Hall, K Henderson, Mrs I
Hewitson, J P Hillary, Mrs W P Hillary, M Iveson, Mrs S J
Iveson, W Iveson, P Kjenstad, Mrs V M Raw and K
Robson.

OFFICIALS Mr A Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mr S Cooper (Works & Environment Manager)
Mrs M J Robinson (Leisure & Environment Assistant)
Mrs J Thexton (Leisure Manager)
Mr L Williams (Grounds Maintenance Service Coordinator)

Councillor A M Chandran advised that he was stepping aside temporarily as Chairman of the Environment Committee.

Councillor I Gray (Vice-Chairman) took the Chair for the meeting.

4. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs B A Clare and C Wheeler.

5. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

6. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor J.D. Clare declared an interest in agenda item No. 9 as a member of Durham County Council, however, he would be remaining in the meeting during the discussions thereon.

7. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from the public.

8. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R S Fleming seconded by Councillor E Adam and

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 6th April 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

9. **ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted his report for the period ending 15th May 2016. The report detailed inspections and general maintenance to the allotments.

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

10. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted his report for the period ending 15th May 2015. The report updated members on site management school activities and events which had taken place.

Members discussed the issues regarding complaints that had been received about the levels of grass cutting on areas owned by Livin.

It was also advised that there may be issues in the future with litter, as Durham County Council were to cease litter picking on areas not in their ownership.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that

- i. The report be received.
- ii. The Town Clerk write to Livin and Durham County Council to express concern regarding the number of complaints being received and to discover how the matter is to be addressed.
- iii. The Town Clerk write to Durham County Council to request that the grass be cut at the central reservation at the Gretna Green Hotel junction of the A167.

11. **CEMETERIES REPORT**

The Grounds Maintenance Service Coordinator submitted a report which updated members regarding Grants of Grave Space and burials.

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

12. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

(1) Members were requested to consider the undermentioned planning applications:-

- (a) Refurbishment and reconfiguration of the restaurant including alterations to Drive Thru and Car Park, to include extensions to retail floor space - McDonalds Restaurant, Coatham Mundeville, Newton Aycliffe.
- (b) Discharge of condition 3 of planning permission relating to the submission of a contaminated land risk assessment – Land at The West of Aycliffe Quarry, Aycliffe Village.

(c) Erection of pitched roof scooter store to front of existing building – Hawkshead Court, Newton Aycliffe.

(2) Members were requested to receive for information the undermentioned planning applications, prior notice of which had been circulated to all Members of the Council. Durham County Council had been notified of the listed comments on each application:

(a) Improvements to golf course, alterations to clubhouse, erection of up to 50 dwellings (Class C3), access arrangements and landscaping (all matters reserved except for access) – Woodham Golf and Country Club, Burnhill Way, Newton Aycliffe. *No objections.*

(b) Thinning and crown lifting (6-7m) of 1 pine T1, 1 sycamore (T3) 1 horse chestnut (T5) and removal of 1 beech (T2) and 2 horse chestnut (T4 and T26) on land between The Bryn and Burncroft, Burn Lane, Newton Aycliffe. *No objections.*

(c) Erection of first floor side extension – 73 Heatherburn Court, Newton Aycliffe. *No objections.*

(d) Erection of single storey rear extension and conversion of garage to habitable space – 11 Aylmer Grove, Newton Aycliffe. *No objections.*

(e) Erection of single storey front extension – 15 Macmillan Road, Newton Aycliffe. *No objections.*

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that:

Application 1 (a) to (c) no objections

Applications 2 (a) to (e) - the applications be received.

CHAIRMAN.