

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe on **22nd FEBRUARY 2017** at **7.15 pm**.

PRESENT: **Councillor I Gray**, (Chairman) and
Councillors E Adam, M Ashcroft, J Atkinson, P J Bergg,
W M Blenkinsopp, A M Chandran, Mrs B A Clare, J D Clare,
J Clark, Mrs M Dalton, M A Dalton, R S Fleming, G C Gray,
B Hall, 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 and Environment Manager)
Mr L Williams (Grounds Maintenance Service Coordinator)
Mrs M J Robinson (Leisure & Environment Assistant)
Mrs J Thexton (Leisure Manager)
Ms J Welch (Golf Manager)

75 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors D G Atkinson, N Collinson, Mrs I Hewitson, J P Hillary and Mrs W. P Hillary.

76 **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

77 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor J D Clare declared an interest in agenda item No. 12 as a member of Durham County Council, however, he would remain in the meeting during the discussions thereon.

78 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from members of the public.

79 **MINUTES**

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

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the **11th January 2017** be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

80 **ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

The Grounds Maintenance Services Coordinator submitted a report for the period ending 12th February 2017. The report advised that tenants had been notified regarding the waste collection and removal of waste bays.

The report also advised of the erection of a large greenhouse at St Oswald's Allotments which was in the process of being erected without permission. Officers had halted the erection of the building until authorisation from members could be sought.

RESOLVED –it be recommended that

- I. The report be received.
- II. Permission be granted for the erection of the greenhouse.

81 **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report for the period up to 12th February which updated members on work carried out to trees and footpaths. The report also advised of fly tipping, littering and anti-social behavioural problems being experienced around the Travellers Green and Clarence Chare area of the Town.

RESOLVED –it be recommended that the report be received.

82 **CEMETERIES REPORT**

The Grounds Maintenance Services Coordinator submitted a report which gave information regarding the grants of grave space which had been issued.

RESOLVED –it be recommended that the report be received.

83 **AYCLIFFE VILLAGE GREENS – PARKING AND DAMAGE**

The Town Clerk and Works and Environment Manager submitted a joint report which advised of damage to the Village Green perimeters and parking issues occurring at Aycliffe Village. The report also advised of contractors' vehicles causing damage to the edges of Village Greens which had now been resolved.

RESOLVED –it be recommended that

- I. The report be received.
- II. A site visit be arranged for members to familiarise themselves with the area and the problems being experienced by residents.
- III. The site visit be held on Saturday 4th March 2017.
- IV. Police be requested to attend.

84 **AVIAN INFLUENZA REPORT**

The Grounds Maintenance Services Coordinator submitted a report to update members on the actions taken by Officers in light of Government advice on Avian Influenza.

RESOLVED –it be recommended that the report be received.

85 **BUS SHELTER SEATING**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report regarding additional seating in two bus shelters as requested at the meeting of the Environment Committee on 23rd November 2016.

RESOLVED –it be recommended that

- I. The report be received.
- II. Seats be purchased from Vica SL at a cost of £450 plus carriage of £150 per unit.

86 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

(1) The undermentioned planning applications were considered:-

- (a) Demolition of buildings – Aycliffe Young Peoples Centre, York Road, Newton Aycliffe.
- (b) Pruning of 7 No. trees and removal of epicormic growth to 2 No. trees – 10 High Green, 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) 5 No. dwellings (including demolition of garages) – Garage Block Armstrong Close, Newton Aycliffe.
Objection Lodged.
- (b) Variation of condition 2 of planning approval ref: DM/16/0235/VOC relating to adherence to approved plans, creating additional parking spaces – Premier Inn, Ricknall Lane, Preston-Le-Skerne.
No objections.
- (c) Conversion and extension of existing building to B8 & B1a, new car park & relocation of LPG tanks – Stiller Group, Ridgeway, Aycliffe Business Park.
No objections.
- (d) Erection & display of non-illuminated monolith sign, panels and internally illuminated projecting sign – Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre, Greenwell Road, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.
- (e) Erection of various external plant and waste chemicals collection tanks – Unit J732 Durham Way South, Aycliffe Business Park.
No objections.
- (f) Erection of two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and conversion of garage to habitable space at 14 The Post Horn, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.

- (g) Erection of two storey side extension and single storey rear extension – 10 Durham Road, Aycliffe Village.
No objections.
- (h) Re-submission of approval DM/16/02947/FPA (Erection of single storey front and rear extensions) increasing length of rear extension and fenestration alterations – 29 Carwardine Close, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.
- (i) Extension of parking layby to create an additional 8 No. spaces – Parking Layby – Kings Drive, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.
- (j) Loft conversion including raising apex by 1500mm erection 1st floor extension. 2 No. dormer and 2 No. roof lights to front and 1 No. box dormer to rear roof slope and raise chimney by 1800mm. Creation of basement level and engineering works to reduce ground level to rear – 19 Westfields, School Aycliffe.
No objections.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that:

Application 1 (a) and (b) no objections

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

CHAIRMAN