

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 14th OCTOBER 2015 at 7.15 p.m.**

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

OFFICIALS Mr A Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mr S Cooper (Environment Officer)
Mrs M J Robinson (Leisure & Environment Assistant)
Mrs J Thexton (Leisure Manager)
Mr D Thompson (Works Manager)
Ms C Walton (Corporate and Policy Officer)
Miss J Welch (Golf Manager)

IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor M. Ashcroft

47. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs S Haigh, P Kjenstad, and C Wheeler.

48. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

49. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor J.D. Clare declared an interest in agenda item No. 13 as a member of Durham County Council, however, he would be remaining in the meeting during the discussions thereon.

50. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from the public.

51. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor M Dalton seconded by Councillor Mrs M Dalton and

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 2nd September 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

52. **ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

The Works Manager submitted his report for the 6 weeks ended the 4th October 2015. The report detailed inspections and general maintenance to the allotments.

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

53. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Works Manager and Environment Officer submitted their report for the 6 weeks ended the 4th October 2015. The report updated members on the work undertaken by volunteer groups, site management and community projects as well as burials and vandalism.

The Environment Officer advised members that tree work had been planned as a result of the recent tree safety inspection.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that

- i The report be received.
- ii All members be provided with a list of locations of the trees and details of the work to be carried out.

54. **GRANTS OF GRAVE SPACE**

RESOLVED - that it be noted that the undermentioned grants of grave space have been issued:

West Cemetery

Grave No. J 118	William Edward Wilkinson
Grave No. I 231	Amanda Mitchell
Grave No. N 106	Ellen Davison Lynch
Grave No. N 105	Eileen McCormick

55. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – UPDATE**

The Corporate and Policy Officer submitted a report which outlined the progress to date on the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that

- i The report be received.
- ii Work on the Neighbourhood Plan proceed independently of Durham County Plan.
- iii Thanks be recorded to Councillor B Hall, Ms C Walton, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering and Thematic Groups, Miss A Donald and also to Mrs A Corner for their work on the Plan.

56. **WOODHAM BURN FOOTBRIDGE – WHINLATTER PLACE**

The Town Clerk submitted a letter from Durham County Council dated 14 September 2015 advising that they were assessing several options for the future of the bridge with the possibility that it could be removed permanently and requested that any objections be received by 2nd October 2015.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that

- i The letter be received.
- ii Durham County Council accepted the assets from the former Sedgefield Borough Council and should accept responsibility for them. The footbridge and footpath should not be removed.

57. **LAND AT SCHOOL AYCLIFFE – LORRY PARK**

The Town Clerk submitted a letter received from the Homes and Communities Agency regarding the restrictive covenant in regard to the lorry park at School Aycliffe.

The letter confirmed the HCA's approval to remove the allowance for lorries and goods vehicles to park at the site, to give use for the parking of motor cars by the general public

This will enable the Council to undertake this action should it wish to do so.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that

- i The letter be received.
- ii There be no immediate imposition of change.

58. **2016/2017 DRAFT ENVIRONMENT REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS**

The Finance Manager submitted a draft Revenue and Capital Budget for 2016/2017 for members' consideration in respect of the Environment Committee.

Members considered each section of the Budgets for the Environment Committee and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the report and draft Revenue and Capital Budget figures for 2016/17 be received.

59. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

(1) Members considered the undermentioned planning applications:-

- (a) Discharge of conditions 3 (levels), 7 (drainage), 11, 12 and 13 (highways) – Land North of Travellers Green, Newton Aycliffe.
- (b) Demolition of 5 no. existing bungalows and erection of 11 no. bungalows and 12 no. apartments. – Travellers Green, Newton Aycliffe.
- (c) Erection of first floor side extension and conversion of existing garage to habitable space – 21 Zetland Hunt, Newton Aycliffe.

(2) Members received 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) Erection of industrial storage building – Husqvarna UK, Preston Road, Aycliffe Business Park. No objections.
- (b) Trimming back of branches of 1 Oak Tree on Agnew Plantation at the rear of 9 The Grange, Newton Aycliffe. No objections.
- (c) Erection of detached garage to rear – 1 Lingard Walk, Newton Aycliffe. No objections.
- (d) Erection of first floor side extension – 6 Woodham Gate, Newton Aycliffe. No objections.

- (e) Erection of single storey rear extension – 16 Colburn Avenue, Newton Aycliffe. No objections.
- (f) 1.78m length extension to existing conservatory – 9 Kirkham Close, Newton Aycliffe. No objections.
- (g) Erection of sun room to rear – 34 Oaklea Mews, Aycliffe Village. No objections.
- (h) Advertising consent for the display of 3 No. non-illuminated advertising hoardings – The Oaks Centre, Aycliffe Business Park. No objections.
- (i) Lift extension to the side of the existing building and single storey office extension – Bethany Day Care Centre, Village Close, Newton Aycliffe. No objections.
- (j) Felling of 1 Sycamore Tree – 12 Monks End, Aycliffe Village. No objections.
- (k) Discharge of conditions 4, 5 and 6 of planning approval DM/15/01731/FPA relating to drainage details and cycle/electric vehicle provision – Premier Inn, Ricknall Lane, Newton Aycliffe. No objections.

(3) Members considered Prior Notification Planning Applications – (for information only)

- (a) Prior notification for the erection of rear conservatory – 125 Mellanby Crescent, Newton Aycliffe.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended:

- i That applications 1(a) to (1) (c) – no objections.
- ii That applications 2(a) to (k) be noted.
- iii That the notifications in respect of Prior Notification Application No. 3(a) be noted.

CHAIRMAN