

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2015** at 7.15 pm

**PRESENT**                    **Councillor A M Chandran** (Chairman) and  
Councillors E Adam, D G Atkinson, J Atkinson, P J Bergg,  
B Blenkinsopp, J D Clare, Mrs B A 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, P Kjenstad, Mrs V M Raw and C Wheeler.

**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)  
Miss J Welch (Golf Manager)

**IN ATTENDANCE**    Councillor M Ashcroft

60.    **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors R Bowman and W Iveson.

61.    **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

62.    **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 be remaining in the meeting during the discussions thereon.

63.    **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from the public.

64.    **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R S Fleming seconded by Councillor Mrs M Dalton and

**RESOLVED** - that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

65.    **ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

The Works Manager submitted his report for the period ending 15<sup>th</sup> November 2015. The report detailed inspections and general maintenance to the allotments.

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

66. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Works Manager and Environment Officer submitted their report for the period ending 15<sup>th</sup> November 2015. The report updated members on the work being undertaken by volunteer groups, site management and events which had taken place as well as burials and vandalism.

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

67. **GRANTS OF GRAVE SPACE**

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

West Cemetery

Grave No. I 232	Karen Keelan
Grave No. K 70	Marjorie Fowler
Grave No. K 128	Stanley Moore

68. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – UPDATE**

The Corporate and Policy Officer submitted a report which updated members on the progress regarding the Neighbourhood Plan.

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

69. **COUNTY DURHAM ACCESS (PRIORITISATION PROJECT)**

Members were requested to consider information from Durham County Council in relation to the County Durham Access Prioritisation Project.

**RESOLVED** - that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the Environment Officer contacts Durham County Council to advise them of Great Aycliffe Town Council's footpath priorities and of the errors in the report.

70. **NOTICE OF MOTION**

The following Notice of Motion was submitted by Councillor E M Adam and seconded by Councillor M Dalton:-

“That this Environment Committee approve the long-term maintenance of two flower beds to be constructed and planted by Durham County Council in the Williamfield area of West Ward”.

Voting took place on the Notice of Motion which was accepted.

**RESOLVED** - that it be recommended:

- (i) That the matter be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.
- (ii) That Members receive a list of flower beds currently maintained by the Works Section.

71. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

- (a) Proposed crown lift to 4 metres and crown reduction by 4 metres of 1No. Oak Tree – 1 Gilpin Road, 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) (a) Demolition of existing building – The Cubby, Greenwell Road, Newton Aycliffe.  
*No objections.*
- (b) Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension – 2 Heighington Street, Aycliffe Village.  
*No objections.*
- (c) Application to vary condition 5 (height) of externally stored containers – Tekmar Energy Ltd., Unit N791 St. Andrews Way, Aycliffe Business Park.  
*No objections*
- (d) Application to vary condition 3 (external storage) to allow the external storage of containers – Tekmar Energy Ltd., Unite 1, Park 2000, Millennium Way, Aycliffe Business Park.  
*No objections*
- (e) Replacement of existing shop front – Poundstretcher – 2-7 Beveridge Way, Newton Aycliffe.  
*No objections.*
- (f) Installation of 1No. fascia sign and 1No. hanging sign – Poundstretcher, 2-7 Beveridge Way, Newton Aycliffe.  
*No objections.*
- (g) Erection of single storey front extension – 5 Vane Road, Newton Aycliffe.  
*No objections.*
- (h) Erection of care home – site of the former Police Station, Central Avenue, Newton Aycliffe.  
*No objections.*

- (i) Conversion of integral garage to habitable room – 9 Aycliffe Gate, Aycliffe Village.  
*No objections.*
- (j) Change of use from Car Showroom (sui Generis) to office accommodation (b) retail and coffee shop (A3)  
*No objections*
- (k) Discharge of condition 5 (travel plan) pursuant to planning permission – Lidl, Moordale Road, Aycliffe Business Park.  
*No objections*

**RESOLVED** - that it be recommended that:

Application 1 (a) no objections

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

**CHAIRMAN.**