

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **Wednesday 9th APRIL 2014** at 7.15 p.m.

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

81. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors R Bowman, M A Dalton, Mrs S Haigh, W Iveson, Mrs V M Raw, D Summers and T Twissell.

82. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

83. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

84. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from the public.

85. **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 26th February 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

86. **ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

The Works Manager submitted his report for the 6 weeks ended the 30th March 2014. The report detailed inspections and general maintenance to the allotments. Mr Thompson also reported that 6 allotment tenancies had been terminated due to non-payment of rent.

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

87. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Works Manager and Environment Officer submitted their report for the 6 weeks ended the 30th March 2014. The report updated members on the work being undertaken by volunteer groups and events which had taken place as well as burials and vandalism. The report also detailed a site management update on Seven Hills Woodland and advised about the SUD scheme at The Moor.

The report also advised that officers had purchased two large container grown trees as replacements for the diseased trees which had been removed at Aycliffe Village Green. A letter had been received from Aycliffe Village Local History Society requesting members to consider delaying the planting until September to coincide with an exhibition they have planned to commemorate the start of the first World War.

Councillor J D Clare distributed a map of The Moor, and explained in greater detail the reasons for the SUD scheme in relation to the new housing development, and exactly how it was intended to work. Councillor Clare also explained that signage and wooden fencing would be provided and that a possible parking area had been identified.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that

- (i) the report be received.
- (ii) planting of the replacement trees at Aycliffe Village Green be delayed as requested.

88. **GRANTS OF GRAVE SPACE**

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

Stephenson Way Cemetery

Grave No. F116 Vincent Scollard

West Cemetery

Grave No. I211 Valerie Piggford

Grave No. R112 Dianne Hewison

Grave No. K141 Nicola Barker

89. **WORKS SERVICE PLAN**

The Works Manager submitted a report which requested members to consider the Works Service Plan for 2014/2015.

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

90. **PRE-PLANNING CONSULTATION RE TELECOMMUNICATIONS MASTS**

Members were requested to consider the proposed alterations to an existing Vodafone telecommunications radio base station on Woodham Way, and a Telefonica site on Burn Lane, Newton Aycliffe.

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

91. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

(1) The Committee considered the undermentioned planning applications:

(a) Change of use from dwelling to community area and office space in association with adjacent assisted housing – 49 Bluebell Close, Newton Aycliffe

(2) Prior Notification Planning Applications – (for information only)
A planning application which is given a PNH / MPN reference is considered ‘deemed consent’, similar to permitted development and the Town Council cannot object to a householder PNH / MPN application. If the planning authority had any issues they would ask for further details and a full planning application.

(a) Prior notification for the erection of a single storey rear extension measuring 4 metres in length and 3.6 metres in height to the apex of the roof – 19 Bousfield Crescent, Newton Aycliffe.

(b) Prior notification for the erection of a single storey rear extension measuring 5 metres in length and 3.8 metres in height to the apex of the roof – 14 Ross Walk, Newton Aycliffe.

(3) To receive for information the undermentioned planning applications, prior notice of which has been circulated to all Members of the Council. Durham County Council have been notified of the listed comments on each application:-

(a) Conversion of integral garage to habitable space – 55 Ashtree Close, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.

(b) Erection of single storey side extension – 34 Hamsterley Road, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.

(c) Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of single storey pitched roof extensions to the rear – 36 The Green, Aycliffe Village.
No objections.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended:

(i) Application 1 (a) no objections

(ii) Applications 2 (a) to (b) - that the applications be received.

(iii) Applications 3 (a) to (c) - that the applications be received

CHAIRMAN.