

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 27th NOVEMBER 2013** at **7.15 p.m.**

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

IN ATTENDANCE Mr. S Timmiss (Head of Planning and Assets, D.C.C.)

OFFICIALS Mr. A. Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mr. D. Austin (Finance Manager)
Mr. S. Cooper (Environment Officer)
Mrs. J. Thexton (Leisure Manager)
Mr. D. Thompson (Works Manager)
Miss A. Donald (Town Clerk's PA)

50. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors R. Bowman, J. Clark, M.A. Dalton, Mrs. S.J. Iveson and T. Twissell.

51. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

52. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

53. **DRAFT DURHAM COUNTY LOCAL PLAN**

Mr. Stuart Timmiss, Head of Planning and Assets at Durham County Council, gave a presentation on the Draft Durham County Local Plan

This was the fourth version of the Plan, following a comprehensive series of consultations with the public and local councils. Mr Timmiss stressed the importance of careful reading of the detailed documents supporting the Plan, in addition to the printed plans. The Plan would be submitted to Durham County Council in April, with an envisaged examination by the planning inspectorate in the summer.

Following the presentation, Mr Timmiss answered a number of questions raised by Members.

It was proposed by Councillor R.S.Fleming, seconded by Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:-

- i) The Town Council wished to compliment Mr Timmiss and his Department on both the consultative process undertaken and the inclusion of the Council's suggestions and comments in regard to the Local Plan.
- ii) The Committee unanimously endorsed the content of the Local Plan as applicable to Great Aycliffe and would respond accordingly.
- iii) The Committee also welcomed the further opportunity to contribute to the detail of the proposed Low Copelaw site development.
- iv) The Town Clerk advise Durham County Council of the Committee's response, taken under delegated powers. (Council Minute 87 (iii) refers)

54. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from the public.

55. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming, seconded by Councillor B. Hall and

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 16th October 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

56. **ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

The Works Manager submitted his report for the six weeks ended the 17th November 2013. The report detailed inspections and general maintenance to the allotments.

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

57. **ALLOTMENT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Works Manager submitted the notes of the Allotments AGM which was held on the 13th November 2013.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the notes be received.

58. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Works Manager and Environment Officer submitted their report for the six weeks ended the 17th November 2013.

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

59. **GRANTS OF GRAVE SPACE**

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

West Cemetery

Grave No. I 212	Patricia Lerigo
Grave No. N109	Gary Paul Aldred
Grave No. K140	William Purser
Grave No. K139	George Golightly

Stephenson Way

Grave No. G104	James Alderson
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60. **PROPOSED BUS SHELTER – DURHAM ROAD, AYCLIFFE VILLAGE**

The Works Manager submitted a report detailing the results of a survey regarding the provision of a bus shelter in Durham Road, Aycliffe Village.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended:-

- i) That the report be received.
- ii) That no bus shelter be provided due to insufficient resident support.

61. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

(1) To consider the undermentioned planning applications:-

- (a) Development of commercial storage site, comprising of the siting of 87 storage containers, erection of perimeter fence, highway surfacing and 5No. lighting/CCTV columns – Vacant land at Hilton Road, Aycliffe Business Park.
- (b) Formation of surface water storage pond with associated fencing, footpaths, boardwalks and landscaping – Site 'O' Cobblers Hall.

(2) 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) Erection of ramp to front of dwelling – 12 Creighton Road, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.
- (b) Erection of single storey rear extension - 29 Ashtree Close, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.
- (c) Erection of single storey rear extension – 20 The Grange, Woodham, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.

- (d) Change of use from business unit to gym at Unit 8, Northfield Way, Aycliffe Business Park.
No objections.
- (e) Re-development of existing industrial site to include part demolition and rebuilding of existing buildings, erection of extension to existing office and associated works – Gestamp Plant 1, Groat Road, Aycliffe Business Park.
No objections.
- (f) Insertion of new window at first floor in north facing garage – 292 Morrison Close, Newton Aycliffe.
No objection.
- (g) Installation of new and reconfiguration of existing site signage – McDonalds Restaurant, Newton Park.
No objections.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended:-

- i) Application 1 (a) – no objections.
- ii) Application 1 (b) – Site ‘O’ Cobblers Hall - The Council has no objection to make to the SUDs scheme and welcomes its implementation. It would, however, support the comment of Mr John Lochen that chestnut pale fencing, which has been suggested as the boundary fence to the site, may not be the appropriate fencing for this particular location.
- (iii) Applications 2 (a) to (g) - that the applications be received and comments noted.

CHAIRMAN.