

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 2nd SEPTEMBER 2015** at **7.15 p.m.**

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

IN ATTENDANCE Councillors M. Ashcroft and P.J. Bergg.

OFFICIALS Mr A Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mr S Cooper (Environment Officer)
Mrs J Thexton (Leisure Manager)
Mr D Thompson (Works Manager)
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin. Officer)

35. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors W. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J. Clark, M. Dalton, Mrs. I. Hewitson and W. Iveson.

36. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

37. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors B. Hall and Mrs. M. Dalton declared an interest in agenda item No. 12 (1)(c) and stated that they would be leaving the meeting during the discussion thereon.

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.

38. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions submitted from the public.

39. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming, seconded by Councillor C. Wheeler and

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 1st July 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

40. **ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

The Works Manager submitted his report for the 9 weeks ended the 23rd August 2015. The report detailed inspections and general maintenance to the allotments.

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

41. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Works Manager and Environment Officer submitted their report for the 9 weeks ended the 23rd August 2015. The report updated members on the work being undertaken by volunteer groups as well as burials and vandalism.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that the report be received

42. **GRANTS OF GRAVE SPACE**

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

West Cemetery

Grave No. I 242	Stanley Parkin
Grave No. I 223	Sandra Ablewhite
Grave No. J 119	Clare Elizabeth Midgley
Grave No. I 230	Ann Graham
Grave No. R113	Luke Wingfield

Stephenson Way Cemetery

Grave No. F 133	Sheila Lunn
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43. **TREES – NEWBURN COURT**

The Works Manager had submitted a report following a complaint from a resident of Newburn Court regarding trees on Council owned land adjacent to their property.

An independent report had also been obtained by a tree consultant which had concluded that the removal of any trees would have little impact in providing additional light to the property. A copy had been forwarded to the resident.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That no further action be taken in respect of the trees.

44. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - UPDATE**

The Corporate and Policy Officer had submitted a report to update members on the progress to date on the Neighbourhood Plan.

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

45. **DELIVERING DIFFERENTLY – D.C.C.**

The Town Clerk and the Environment Officer were proposing to forward an Initial Expression of Interest form to 'Delivering Differently' for funding towards the maintenance of the Wildflower Meadows within DCC's ownership currently managed by Great Aycliffe Town Council.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that the initial expression of interest form be forwarded to D.C.C. for funding towards the wildflower meadows.

46. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Councillor J D Clare advised that as a Durham County Council Member who will be involved in determining planning applications he will reconsider planning applications taking into full account all the information that is put before the Durham County Council Planning Committee.

Councillors B. Hall and Mrs. M. Dalton declared a personal interest in planning application (1) (c) and left the meeting during the discussion thereon.

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

- (a) Installation of access ramp to front – 36 Eden Road, Newton Aycliffe.
- (b) Erection of 125 dwellings and associated infrastructure – Land East of Agnew Community Centre and North of Woodham Way, Newton Aycliffe.
- (c) Improvements to golf course, alterations to clubhouse, erection of up to 50 dwellings (Class C3) access arrangements and landscaping – Woodham Golf and Country Club.

Councillors B. Hall and Mrs. M. Dalton returned to the meeting.

(2) Members were requested 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 two storey side extension and single storey rear extension (in place of existing conservatory) – 40 Wilton Court, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.
- (b) Hotel extension comprising of 31 additional bedrooms, 2 A/C compounds and alterations to existing car parking and landscaped areas – Premier Inn, Ricknall Lane, Preston Le Skerne.
No objections.
- (c) Demolition of redundant swimming pool building – Sugar Hill Primary School, Sheraton Road, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.
- (d) Erection of 8 No. supported living flats including staff accommodation, new vehicular access and parking provision at – Woodham Grange, Burn Lane, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.

- (e) Discharge of condition 8 relating to flood risk/drainage from planning permission DM/14/03879/FPA – Land to the West of Preston Road, Aycliffe Business Park.
No objections.
- (f) Erection of 1.05m wrought iron fence to front/side (retrospective) – 2 Carwardine Close, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.
- (g) Erection of 56 bed residential care home, with associated car parking and infrastructure – Site of former Police Station, Central Avenue, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.
- (3) Prior Notification Planning Applications – (for information only)**
A planning application which is given a PN reference is considered ‘deemed consent’, similar to permitted development and the Town Council cannot object to a householder PN application. If the planning authority had any issues they would ask for further details and a full planning application.
- (a) Prior notification of the installation of telecom equipment mast – Burn Lane, Newton Aycliffe.
- (b) Erection of 17.5 m. high telecommunications mast and 1 No. associated cabinet – Telecommunications Mast Burnhill Way, Newton Aycliffe.
- (c) Erection of single storey rear extension measuring 4 metres in length, 2.85 metres in height to eave level and 3.75 metres in overall height – 48 Lightfoot Road, Newton Aycliffe.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended:

- (i) That application Nos. 1(a) and (1) (c) – no objections.
- (ii) That the following comments be made and forwarded to Durham County Council on application No. 1(b):-
- Open Space – the suggested layout and allocation of open spaces is not acceptable as designed in its present format as it is not adequately allocated across the whole site.
 - Roads / Parking Issues – The Town Council wish to comment on the need for additional parking provision as the current provision would be likely to result in pavement parking. Also additional householder / visitor parking bays should be considered.
- (iii) That application Nos. 2(a) to (g) be noted.
- (iv) That the notifications in respect of Prior Notification Application Nos. 3(a) to (c) be noted.

CHAIRMAN.