

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 1st JULY 2015 at 7.15 p.m.**

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

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)

21. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors D G Atkinson, J Clark, Mrs V M Raw and C Wheeler.

22. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

23. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

24. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

- a) A member of the public asked about the removal of lighting on Burnhill Way and the possibility that a further 200 lights within the Parish were to be removed.

Councillor R S Fleming advised that this matter would be answered fully under item 11 on the Agenda.

- b) A member of the public asked whether someone had been granted access on to the A167 as the white lines and cycle track had been removed.

Councillor A Chandran advised that this was not a matter for consideration on the Agenda, nor a responsibility of Great Aycliffe Town Council.

- c) A Member of the public asked whether any progress had been made regarding the ecology report for West Park Lakes.

Councillor R S Fleming advised that detail of progress was included in the environment report to this meeting.

25. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R S Fleming seconded by Councillor M Iveson and

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 13th May 2015 and 27th May 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

26. **ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

The Works Manager submitted his report for the 5 weeks ended the 21st June 2015. The report detailed inspections and general maintenance to the allotments.

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

27. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Works Manager and Environment Officer submitted their report for the 5 weeks ended the 21st June 2015. The report updated members on the work being undertaken by volunteer groups as well as burials and vandalism. The report also gave details of community participation in organised events and the forthcoming Environment Week.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that the report be received

28. **GRANTS OF GRAVE SPACE**

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

West Cemetery

Grave No. I 197

Jeanette Campbell

Grave No. I 224

Dawn Ablewhite

Stephenson Way Cemetery

Grave No. F 117

Michael Howe

Grave No. F 110

Pamela Davison

29. **CAR PARKING ISSUES – AYCLIFFE VILLAGE GREENS**

The Town Clerk submitted a report which outlined the outcome of the site meeting held on 28th May 2015.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that:

- i the report be received.
- ii officers monitor the situation.
- iii officers bring a report back to the Environment Committee in due course.
- iv signage be not provided at present.

30. **SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT – A167 STREET LIGHTS**

The Town Clerk submitted a letter received from Mr J Reed, Head of Technical Services, Durham County Council, which outlined the options and costs for the Town Council to fund the retention of the street lights.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended:

- i. the letter be received.
- ii Great Aycliffe Town Council enter into a Service Level Agreement with Durham County Council to retain lighting on the A167 within the Parish Boundary for an initial period of 10 years.

31. **CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL TO REMOVE STREET LIGHTS – BURNHILL WAY**

The Town Clerk submitted a consultation letter received from Mr T Ward, Senior Project Manager, Technical Services, Durham County Council regarding the County Council's Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that:

- i the letter be received.
- ii a letter be sent to Durham County Council opposing the removal of street lighting on Burnhill Way on the following grounds:
 - a. Burnhill Way is not a rural area therefore E2 between settlements in a rural location is incorrect.
 - b. crime and fear of crime issues.
 - c. road safety, school children morning and evening darkness.
 - d. Accidents that were potentially very serious have occurred on the road

32. **PROPOSED DIVERSION OF PUBLIC FOOTPATHS**

The Town Clerk submitted a consultation letter received from Mr M Ogden Durham County Council regarding the proposal under the provisions of Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 to divert public footpaths 5 (Great Aycliffe Parish) and 7 (Heighington Parish, Darlington Borough Council).

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that:

- i the report be received.
- ii the changes be accepted.

33. **LORRY PARK**

The Town Clerk submitted a report which provided information to members regarding recent publicity following a complaint of the lack of public conveniences in the Council owned lorry park located in School Aycliffe.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that:

- i the report be received
- ii officers monitor the situation.
- iii the Town Clerk apply for the lorry park covenant to be lifted.

34. **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.

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

- (a) Conversion of Public House to 10 No. apartments and erection of 4 No. dwellings – The North Briton, High Street, Aycliffe Village.
- (b) Erection of single storey rear extension – 11 Yoden Court, Newton Aycliffe.
- (c) Change of use from adult education and rehabilitation facility to mixed use comprising Office Accommodation (B1), Fitness Gym (D2) and Café (A3) – The Oaks Centre, Whinfield Drive, Aycliffe Business Park.
- (d) Change of use to gym (Use Class D2) – Building 12/I 703B Whinfield Drive, Aycliffe Business Park.

(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 first floor extension at Workshop Supplies, St. Cuthberts Way, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.
- (b) Erection of two storey side extension and single storey rear extension – 5 High Barn Road, School Aycliffe.
No objections.
- (c) Erection of first floor side extension, replace existing front balcony with pitched roof and addition of pitched roof over existing flat roofed bedroom – 15 High Barn Road, School Aycliffe.
No objections.

- (d) Erection of two storey side extension – 54 Defoe Crescent, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.
- (e) Erection of part first floor, part two storey side extension – 7 Howson Crescent, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.
- (f) Display of 2 No. fascia signs and 1 No. hanging sign and 5 laminated decals to existing windows – 2 Beveridge Way, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.
- (g) Advertisement consent for the display of 3 No. internally illuminated fascia signs and 1 No. internally illuminated totem sign – Vehicle Repair Garage, Hilton Road, Aycliffe Business Centre.
No objections.
- (h) 4 No. extensions to existing garage – Vehicle Repair Garage, Hilton Road, Aycliffe Business Centre.
No objections.
- (i) Installation of replacement shop front, alterations to side elevation and installation of external air conditioning equipment to the rear – 2 Beveridge Way, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.
- (j) Erection of 56 bed residential care home with associated car parking and infrastructure – site of former Police Station, Central Avenue, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended:

- (i) Application 1(a) to 1(d) – no objections
- (ii) Applications 2(a) to 2(j) be noted.

CHAIRMAN