

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **Wednesday 25th February 2015 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, Mrs I
Hewitson, J P Hillary, Mrs W P Hillary, Mrs S J Iveson,
P Kjenstad, Mrs V M Raw, D Summers, T Twissell, and
C Wheeler.

IN ATTENDANCE Mr J Cokill from 3Rivers Local Nature Partnership

OFFICIALS Mr A Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mr S Cooper (Environment Officer)
Ms A Corner (CNEO)
Mrs M J Robinson (Leisure & Environment Assistant)
Mrs J Thexton (Leisure Manager)
Mr D Thompson (Works Manager)

78. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors M A Dalton, Mrs S Haigh, M Iveson and W. Iveson.

79. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

80. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

81. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from the public.

82. **RIVER SKERNE LANDSCAPE PARTERSHIP PROPOSAL**

Mr J Cokill from 3Rivers Local Nature Partnership attended to give a presentation and answer questions on the River Skerne Landscape proposals.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that:

- i the Town Clerk send a letter of support for 3Rivers' project.
- ii the Town Clerk send contact details to Mr Cokill of CDALC.

83. **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 14th January 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

84. **ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

The Works Manager submitted his report for the 6 weeks ended the 15th February 2015. The report detailed inspections and general maintenance to the allotments.

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

85. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Works Manager and Environment Officer submitted their report for the 6 weeks ended the 15th February 2015. The report updated members on the work being undertaken by volunteer groups, community participation, site management and burials.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that:

- i the report be received.
- ii an interim supply of Dog Waste bags be purchased in the current financial year.

86. **GRANTS OF GRAVE SPACE**

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

West Cemetery

Grave No. J39	John Casson
Grave No. I222	Valerie Welham
Grave No. K2	Craig Austin Leadbitter
Grave No. K130	John Stevenson
Grave No. K69	Stephen McCourt
Grave No. N96	Leanne Dobson

Stephenson Way Cemetery

Grave No. C134	Keith Smith
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87. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE**

The Neighbourhood Community Engagement Officer submitted a report which gave current information regarding the Plan.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that:

- i the report be received.
- ii completion of the Plan be progressed quickly and include the aspirations of the Town's people.
- iii thematic groups for Environment, Housing and Retail be created with Councillor representation by:

a. Environment

- 1) Councillor John Clark
- 2) Councillor P Kjenstad
- 3) Councillor R S Fleming

- b. Housing
 - 1) Councillor A M Chandran
 - 2) Councillor Mrs W Hillary
 - 3) Councillor R S Fleming

- c. Retail
 - 1) Councillor J Hillary
 - 2) Councillor Mrs W Hillary
 - 3) Councillor W M Blenkinsopp

- iv The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group be requested to clarify their Vision Statement 'Cost Effective Services' and include achievable, sound goals in the Statement.

88. **WINTER MAINTENANCE**

The Works Manager submitted a report which provided background information in respect of an item which was to be raised by Councillor A M Chandran.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that:

- i the report be received.
- ii the matter be dealt with by Durham County Council and no action taken by this Council.

89. **FLY TIPPING CAMPAIGN**

Members were asked to consider a response from Durham County Council regarding an initiative in respect of the purchase of covert CCTV in an attempt to reduce fly tipping in the County.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that:

- i the correspondence be received.
- ii no purchase of covert CCTV be made by this Council at the present time.

90. **PARKING AND WAITING RESTRICTIONS ORDER**

Members were requested to consider a Parking and Waiting Restriction Amendment No. 1 Order consultation document from Durham County Council.

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

91. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

- (a) Installation and operation of 5MW solar farm and associated infrastructure, including photovoltaic panels, mounting frames, inverters, transformers, substations, communications building, access tracks, pole-mounted CCTV cameras and fence – Land to the West of Preston Road, Aycliffe Business Park.

- (b) Conversion of 4No. shop units into library and customer access point and relocation of entrance – Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre, Greenwell Road, 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 conservatory to the rear measuring 4 metres in length and 4 metres in height to the apex of the roof – 45 Biscop Crescent, Newton Aycliffe.
- (b) Prior notification for the erection of a rear conservatory measuring 4.85m in length and 2.85m in height to the apex of the roof – 69 Pemberton Road, Newton Aycliffe.
- (c) Erection of two storey rear extension, single storey side extension and insertion of a new window in each gable wall at first floor level – 18 Sorrell Wynd, Newton Aycliffe.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that:

- (i) Application 1 (a)

Durham County Council be advised that the Town Council supports the application for the installation of a solar farm in this location.

Application 1 (b)

Durham County Council be advised that the Town Council supports and welcomes the change of use and conversion of 4 no. shop units that enables the installation of a new library and customer access point located in the Leisure Centre.

- (ii) Application 2 (a) to (c) - the applications be received.

CHAIRMAN.