

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **Wednesday 27th MAY 2015** at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT **Councillor A M Chandran** (Chairman) and
Councillors E Adam, J Atkinson, B Blenkinsopp,
R Bowman, J Clark, 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,
W Iveson, P Kjenstad, and Mrs V M Raw.

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)

IN ATTENDANCE PCSO Richard Scott, Durham Constabulary
PCSO Chris Noble, Durham Constabulary

6. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs B A Clare, J D Clare, M A Dalton, Mrs I Hewitson and C Wheeler.

7. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

8. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

9. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from the public.

10. **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 8th April 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

11. **ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

The Works Manager submitted his report for the 7 weeks ended the 17th May 2015. The report detailed inspections and general maintenance to the allotments.

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

12. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Works Manager and Environment Officer submitted their report for the 7 weeks ended the 17th May 2015. The report updated members on the work being undertaken by volunteer groups, site management and burials.

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

13. **GRANTS OF GRAVE SPACE**

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

West Cemetery

Grave No. K 129

Grave No. J 157

Grave No. J 128

Shirley Prince

Glyn Greenow

Christina Hall

14. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FUNDING UPDATE**

The Community Neighbourhood Engagement Officer submitted a report to bring members up to date with the funding application made to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

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

15. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SOFT MARKET TESTING UPDATE**

The Community Neighbourhood Engagement Officer submitted a report to bring members up to date with progress on the Soft Market Testing.

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

16. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN THEMATIC GROUP UPDATE**

The Community Neighbourhood Engagement Officer submitted a report to bring members up to date with the Thematic Groups' work.

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

17 **PARKING PROBLEMS – AYCLIFFE VILLAGE**

The Town Clerk's report provided information regarding parking issues around the Village Green and footpaths at Aycliffe Village.

PCSO Richard Scott advised members what action Durham Constabulary could take to deter motorists from parking inconsiderately on footpaths.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that

- i The report be received.
- ii Residents bordering the village green be consulted to gauge their views.
- iii The Town Clerk investigates the legal aspect with a view to introducing a byelaw.
- iv A further report be produced after the meeting with officers from Durham County Council.

18 **TREE INSPECTION REPORT**

The Works Manager and Environment Officer submitted a tree inspection report undertaken by Sylva.

The report gave information regarding the condition of trees carried out at 20 locations on land in the ownership of the Council.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that

- i The report be received.
- ii Notice be given in the local press when trees are to be felled unless felling is required on health and safety grounds.
- iii The Town Clerk contact Durham County Council to request that they also notify the public via the local press when trees are to be felled in the Parish.

19 **DELIVERING DIFFERENTLY**

The Town Clerk submitted correspondence regarding Durham County Council's Delivering Differently initiative.

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

20. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

(1) Members considered the undermentioned planning applications:-

- (a) Installation of pitched roof over existing porch/garage to front and side – 14 Russell Court, Newton Aycliffe.

- (b) Erection of extension to existing factory unit – Tricogen Laboratories, Whinfield Road, Aycliffe Business Park.
- (2) Members received for information the undermentioned planning applications, prior notice of which had been circulated to all Members of the Council. Durham County Council had been notified of the listed comments on each application:-**
- (a) Installation of play equipment and associated enclosures within external drinking area – The Huntsman Public House, Woodham.
No objections.
- (b) Erection of agricultural building – Low Copelaw Farm, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.
- (c) Erection of single storey side extension – 39 Bowes Road, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.
- (d) Erection of single storey side extension – 25 Millfields, Aycliffe Village.
No objections.
- (e) Erection of two storey side extension – 1 Castlereagh Close, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.
- (f) Formation of first floor window to the side elevation – 29 Hamilton Close, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.
- (g) Erection of two storey rear extension – 9 Cadogan Square, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.
- (h) Display of fascia lettering to existing building and freestanding signage to side entrance – Hitachi Rail Europe Ltd., Millenium Way.
No objections.
- (i) Erection of single storey rear extension – 8 Ashtree Close, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.
- (j) Erection of University Technical College and associated infrastructure at Long Tens Way, Aycliffe Business Park.
No objections.
- (k) Removal of condition 11 of planning approval – 7/2007/00004/DM relating to the closure of the existing site access – Land to the rear of 13-24 Durham Road, Aycliffe Village.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended:

- (i) Application 1(a) and 1(b) – no objections
- (ii) Application 2(k) – it be noted that an objection had been made.

CHAIRMAN