

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **Wednesday 10th APRIL 2013 at 7.15 p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillor V Crosby (Chairman) and
Councillors W M Blenkinsopp, Mrs D Bowman, T R Bowman, Mrs B A Clare, J D Clare, B Curtis, Mrs M Dalton, R S Fleming, G C Gray, I Gray, Mrs J Gray, B Haigh, Mrs S Haigh, B Hall, K Henderson, Mrs W P Hillary, Mrs K Hopper, M Iveson, Mrs S J Iveson, W Iveson and Mrs V M Raw.

OFFICIALS

Mr A Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mr S Cooper (Environment Officer)
Mrs M J Robinson (Leisure & Environment Assistant)
Miss J Simpson (Leisure Manager)
Mr D Thompson (Works Manager)

IN ATTENDANCE Councillor J Hillary

66. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs A Palmer and A Warburton.

67. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

68. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

69. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from the public.

70. **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 27th February 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

71. **ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

The Works Manager submitted his report for the 6 weeks ended the 17th February 2013. The report detailed inspections and general maintenance to the allotments.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that the report be received subject to the following amendment:-

"It be noted that it is Pigeon Site No. 9 which is vacant at St. Oswald's and not, as printed, Poultry Site No. 3".

72. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Works Manager and Environment Officer submitted their report for the 6 weeks ended the 31st March 2013. The report updated members on the work being undertaken by volunteer groups as well as burials and vandalism.

The report also advised that the footbridge over Woodham Burn which links Humphrey Close to the Agnew Housing Estate had been replaced.

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

73. **GRANTS OF GRAVE SPACE**

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

Stephenson Way Cemetery

Grave No. A 333A	Carly Seery
Grave No. F 120	Kim Marie Hopps
Grave No. C 21	Dawn Leadbitter

West Cemetery

Grave No. I 228	Dawn Robinson
Grave No. N 57	Annie Carr
Grave No. N 60	Peter Cox

74. **WORKS' SERVICE PLAN**

The Works Manager submitted the Annual Works' Service Plan for members' consideration and approval.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that the Plan be approved.

75. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

(1) The Committee considered the undermentioned planning applications:

- (a) Erection of single storey extension, installation of external cladding and soft and hard landscaping alterations – PWS Distributors – Spring Road, Aycliffe Business Park.
- (b) Installation of 1 No. internally lit fascia sign – PWS Distribution – Spring Road, Aycliffe Business Park.
- (c) Conservatory to rear – 6 Thursby Close, School Aycliffe.
- (d) Erection and display of fascia sign on the south elevation – Bobby's Foods – Eldon Road, Newton Aycliffe.
- (e) Change of use from warehouse and showroom to health and fitness gym – Unit 5, Durham Way South, Aycliffe Business Park.

(2) The Council received, for information, the undermentioned planning applications, prior notice of which had been circulated to all Members of the Council. Durham County Council have been notified of the Council's comments:-

- (a) Change of use from general storage (B8) to general industrial use (B2) including external alterations and the formation of new access at the former Tetley Distribution Depot, Grindon Way, Aycliffe Industrial Estate.

No objections but would recommend some replacement planting of shrubs or similar to provide screening from St. Andrew's Way. The Town Council supports any proposal to improve Aycliffe Industrial Estate and provide additional jobs in the area.

- (b) First floor bedroom and en-suite extension over existing garage – 16 Hareson Road, Newton Aycliffe.

No objections.

- (c) Change of use from public open space to domestic garden and erection of 5ft. high wooden fence – 75 Stainforth Close, Newton Aycliffe.

No objections.

- (d) Demolition of existing garage and erection of two storey side/front extension – 10 Stoneleigh Court, Newton Aycliffe.

No objections.

- (e) Change of use from industrial unit to climbing centre including external alterations to the building at the former Presswork Metals Unit, Cumbie Way, Aycliffe Business Park.

No objection to the proposal and fully supports the application which will bring an empty building back into use and provide much needed jobs to the area.

- (f) Advertisement consent for the installation of 2 No. halo effect corporate signage to the north and east elevations at the former Tetley Distribution Depot, Grindon Way, Aycliffe Industrial Estate.

No objections.

- (g) Variation of condition 2 of planning approval 7/2012/0192/DM relating to adherence to approved plans at Bewick Crescent Surgery, Bewick Crescent, Newton Aycliffe.

No objections to the amended proposal.

- (h) Extension to existing detached garage – 50 The Grange, Newton Aycliffe.

No objections.

- (i) Erection of single storey pitched roof extension to the rear of the existing dwelling – 6 Low Green, Newton Aycliffe.

No objections.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended:

- (i) Application 1 (a) to (d) – no objections.
- (ii) That the following comment be made on Application 1(e):-

7/2013/0109/DM - Change of use from warehouse and showroom to health and fitness gym at Unit 5, Durham Way South, Aycliffe Industrial Estate, Newton Aycliffe.

The Town Council would object to the proposal as the proposed gym falls outside the uses identified as acceptable under the local plan policy IB6.

Although the industrial estate has relied heavily on a wide range of business and manufacturing uses in the past there is a clear need to be flexible in the range of future uses for currently empty units. However, the frequency of the change of use to leisure purposes is not allowing sufficient time to test the viability and sustainability of this type of use in an industrial setting.

Although a precedent has already been set with, change of use from business to leisure activities, Planet Leisure and Aspire Fitness Studio as well as the proposed Soccer Factory. This proposal will only create 2 full-time and 4 part-time jobs. Clearly the Town Council would prefer to see this unit employing more people in an industrial use.

- (iii) Applications 2 (a) to (i) - that the applications be received.

CHAIRMAN