

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 11<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2013** at 7.15 p.m.

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

**OFFICIALS**                Mr. A. Bailey (Town Clerk)  
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin Officer)

98.    **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

99.    **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors R. Bowman, M.A. Dalton, Mrs. S. Haigh, Mrs. I. Hewitson, M. Iveson and Mrs. S.J. Iveson.

100.   **MEMBERS' DISPENSATION**

No dispensation requests had been received.

101.   **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest given.

102.   **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming, seconded by Councillor B. Hall and

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

103.   **ANNOUNCEMENTS / PRESENTATION**

The Mayor had submitted a list of appointments she had attended for the period 26 October to the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013.

She gave an outline on some of the memorable events she had attended especially the 'kick off' site construction for Hitachi, the opening of the town centre refurbishment and the St. John Ambulance Curry Lunch.

**Father Michael Campion**

The Council had previously agreed to present Father Michael Campion with a gift under a Notice of Motion presented by Councillor R.S. Fleming at the Council Meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

Councillor R.S. Fleming welcomed Father Michael to the meeting and spoke of the work and support Father Michael had carried out for the township of Newton Aycliffe during his time at St. Mary's Church.

The Mayor had the pleasure of presenting Father Michael with a gift from Great Aycliffe Town Council for his service to the people of Great Aycliffe.

**RESOLVED** – that the information be received with the addition on the 'Announcement Sheet' of the visit by the Mayor to the St. John Ambulance Curry Lunch on Sunday, 3 November 2013.

104. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions raised by the Public.

105. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

(a) **Environment Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor J.D. Clare, seconded by Councillor B. Hall and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2013 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(b) **Recreation Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor B. Hall, seconded by Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the Recreation Committee held on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2013 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(c) **Policy and Resources Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming, seconded by Councillor Mrs. V. Raw and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2013 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

106. **RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTE No. 67 (iii) – SUNDAY LUNCHES**

Following the meeting of the Recreation Committee, Members were asked to consider further the provision of Sunday Lunches at the Oakleaf Sports Complex.

It was proposed that the Sunday Lunches continue until the New Year when statistics could be presented for a final decision to be made in early Spring. The cooked meals on a Sunday after 6.30 p.m. should cease with only light snacks being available after this time.

**RESOLVED** - as follows:-

- (i) That full statistics in respect of the Sunday Lunches be provided for a decision to be made in early Spring.
- (ii) That no cooked meals be made after 6.30 p.m. on a Sunday with only light snacks being available at this time.

107. **REVIEW OF THE STATEMENT OF LICENSING ACT 2003 POLICY**

The Town Clerk had submitted a letter from Durham County Council seeking views from members on the proposed changes to the current licensing policy. The proposed changes were set out in the letter for information and consideration and were based on:-

- Authorised Licensing Hours
- Licence Conditions
- Early Morning Restriction Orders

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the information be received.
- (ii) That this Council supports the proposed changes to the Licensing Act Policy.

108. **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT 2007 – INVITATION TO TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report giving information on the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 and the opportunities provided by the extension of the Act to Parish and Town Councils.

The extension of the Act provides opportunities for the Town Council to ask Central Government to consider removing legislative or other barriers that prevent them from improving the economic, social and environmental well being of their area.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the information be received.
- (ii) That the possible opportunities that this Act brings to the Local Community in conjunction with the Town Council be noted.

109. **SCHOOL SPEED LIMITS**

A copy of the response from Durham County Council had been circulated in respect of the Notice of Motion from Councillor P. Kjenstad which was put forward by this Authority seeking a 20mph limit being adopted outside of all schools in Newton Aycliffe.

**RESOLVED** – that the information be received

110. **COUNTY DURHAM ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS – FUNDING FOR SECRETARIAT**

A letter had been circulated from the County Durham Association of Local Councils in respect of the withdrawal of financial support by Durham County Council for the Associations' Secretariat.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That this 'first stage' letter be received pending further information being supplied for consideration.
- (ii) That thanks be recorded to Councillor W. Waters, Chairman of the County Durham Association of Local Councils for bringing the information to our attention.

111. **LAND AT BLUEBELL MEADOWS – FORMER PLAY AREA**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report to advise members of the removal of the covenant by application to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) at the above location which restricted the use to play area.

A letter confirming the removal of the covenant which restricted the use of the area had now been received, however, it was pointed out that all of the remaining covenants remained in force and effect in regard to the parcel of land at Bluebell Meadows.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the information and report be received.
- (ii) That the confirmation letter from the Homes and Communities Agency be included in the relevant deed packet for future information.

112. **NORTH EAST LEADERSHIP BOARD (COMBINED AUTHORITY)**

Information had been circulated seeking a corporate response on the proposal to establish a North East Leadership Board by April 2014. Responses were needed to the following two surveys, the first of which would need to be completed by the 12<sup>th</sup> December.

(a) **North East Leadership Board Survey**

It was proposed by Councillor J.D. Clare that we support the idea of a North East Leadership Board with the following suggestions to the questions on the Survey.

That we give the following replies:-

Question 1 - YES to all three parts of the question.

Question 2 - YES – setting out the following reason:- “Only if there is proper accountability and scrutiny”.

Question 3 - YES – setting out the following reason:- “That we need closer relations to be developed with Teesside.”

Question 4 - YES – setting out the following reason:- “That we must not end up funding the Metro Transport System”.

This proposal was seconded by Councillor E.M. Adam.

Voting took place on this proposal which was not carried.

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming that we do not need and do not want a North East Leadership Board and a response of NO to all 4 questions of the proposal be submitted to Durham County Council.

This was seconded by Councillor A.M. Chandran.

Voting took place on this proposal and resulted in the proposal by Councillor R.S. Fleming being carried.

(b) Government Consultation

The Department for Communities and Local Government also sought a response to the ‘Proposal to establish a combined authority for the area of Durham, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear’ by the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2014.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the survey be completed with ‘NO’ to all 4 questions of the survey and forwarded to Durham County Council immediately.
- (ii) That an appropriate response be forwarded to the Department for Communities and Local Government based on the reply forwarded to D.C.C.

113. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

Verbal reports were given by representatives on the undermentioned Outside Bodies:-

(a) Youth Council

Councillor D. Summers gave an update on the Youth Council.

(b) County Durham Association of Local Councils (AGM)

No meeting.

(c) Citizens Advice Bureau

No representative.

(d) Woodham Village Community Association

Councillor K. Henderson gave an update.

(e) Great Aycliffe and Middridge A.A.P. Local Council's Committee

No meeting.

(f) Larger Local Councils' Forum

Mr. Dan Austin (Finance Manager) had attended on this occasion.

(g) Lifelong Learning Committee

No meeting – still awaiting information re changes to this Committee.

(h) Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre

Councillor D. Summers gave an update and informed the Council that the Youth Centre would now be officially called Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre.

(i) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society

Councillor I Gray reported on this Society.

(j) Health and Wellbeing Partnership Network

Councillor Collinson had been unable to attend the meeting.

(k) Friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve

Councillor I Gray gave an update.

**RESOLVED** – that the information given from the Representatives serving on the Outside Bodies be received.

**CHAIRMAN.**