

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> MARCH 2015** at 7.15 p.m.

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

**OFFICIALS**                Mr. A. Bailey (Town Clerk)  
Mrs M Robinson (Leisure & Environment Assistant)

136. **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

137. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors R Bowman, M A Dalton, R S Fleming, W Iveson and Mrs A Palmer,

138. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATION**

There were no applications for dispensations.

139. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There had been no declarations of interest received.

140. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions raised by the Public.

141. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor J D Clare, seconded by Councillor Mrs V Raw and

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

142. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had submitted a list of events she had attended for the period 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015 to 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

The Town Clerk reminded members of the North East Regional Conference and asked if any members wished to attend.

**RESOLVED** – that the information provided by the Mayor and the Town Clerk be noted.

143. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

(a) **Environment Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor J D Clare, seconded by Councillor J Atkinson and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the minutes of the Environment Committee held on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015 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 J Hillary and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the minutes of the Recreation Committee held on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(c) **Policy and Resources Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor M Iveson, seconded by Councillor E M Adam and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2015 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

144. **NOTICE OF MOTION**

Members were asked to consider the Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor GC Gray and seconded by Councillor Mrs I Hewitson :-

- (i) That the Council changes the way that the Mayor of Great Aycliffe Town Council is selected for nomination for election at the Annual General Meeting.
- (ii) That three key issues be taken into account:
  - 1. Time of Service to the Council.
  - 2. Dedication to the current role that the Councillor plays within the Council.
  - 3. Selection of the best candidate for the position.

- (iii) That the three key issues should be taken into account on a politically impartial basis and scored out of 30 (10 marks for each issue) and a shortlist be produced based upon these scores and then voted upon at the Council Annual General Meeting.

Councillor GC Gray spoke on his Motion, setting out the reasons for submission of the Motion.

After discussion and consideration of the motion, voting took place as follows:-

For the Motion	-	3 Votes
Against the Motion	-	19 Votes
Absentions	-	1 Vote

**RESOLVED** – that the current process of electing the Mayor be retained.

145. **ROYAL GARDEN PARTY**

Members were advised that the draw for Royal Garden Party Nomination's draw had resulted in successful nominations from Spennymoor Town Council and Brandon and Byshottles Parish Council.

**RESOLVED** – that the information be received.

146. **LAND SALE – AGNEW 5**

The Town Clerk submitted a report which updated members regarding the potential sale of land at Woodham.

**RESOLVED** – that the report be received.

147. **STANDING ORDER No. 32 – CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT**

The Town Clerk submitted a report under Council Standing Order No. 32 - Code of Conduct Complaints.

**RESOLVED** – that the report be received.

148. **RESIGNATIONS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

To receive the following resignations from Councillor D Summers from the undermentioned Outside Bodies and to consider the appointment of replacements.

- (a) Bus Preservation Society
- (b) Newton Aycliffe Youth Council

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- i) That a vacancy be noted for a Bus Preservation Society representative.
- ii) That Councillor J Atkinson be appointed as the representative to Newton Aycliffe Youth Council.

149. **PRE-SCHOOL BUILDING – ST. OSWALD’S PARK**

The the Town Clerk and Early Years Officer submitted a report to provide members with additional information, following a previous report to the Policy and Resources Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2015 regarding the opportunity to provide two year old’s places in St Oswald’s Pavilion following refurbishment works.

The report outlined the capital grant of £24,000 that was available from Durham County Council towards building works and a revenue grant of £200 per child place towards resources.

The Town Clerk explained the number of 3 year old children expected to register in September (or future) terms was an unknown quantity, particularly as other centres were currently offering places for 2 year old children.

The Town Clerk also pointed out that whatever age group was considered appropriate to provide for, a large amount of the capital works was required for the building in any event, with a smaller proportion specifically needed for pre-school children.

**RESOLVED – as follows:-**

- i) That the Pavilion at St Oswald’s Park be altered to accommodate 3 year olds and asset management works be undertaken.
- ii) That staffing and equipment be put in place.
- iii) That provision for 2 year old children will not be offered at the present time, however, the proposal will be revisited in the future following an assessment of demand for 3 year old child places.

150. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

Reports were given by representatives on the undermentioned Outside Bodies:-

(a) Youth Council

Councillor J.D. Clare submitted a report for members on the Youth Council activities.

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

No Meeting.

(c) Aycliffe Village Community Association

Councillor Wheeler gave an update from the AGM held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

Councillor Wheeler advised that as a result of the Asset Transfer, Durham County Council’s service level agreement would cost the Association £1500 per annum.

Additionally Councillor Wheeler advised that the Association would no longer be receiving the £1600 annual grant from Durham County Council.

(d) Woodham Village Community Association

Councillor K. Henderson advised that the grant applications for the extension to build changing rooms had been successful. He informed members that there had been a theft of lead from some parts of the roof.

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

No meetings.

(f) Larger Local Councils' Forum

Councillor J D Clare submitted a report for members on the meeting of DCALC held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

(g) Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre

Councillor J.D. Clare submitted a report on the Youth and Community Centre in his capacity as a County Councillor on that Committee.

(h) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society

Councillor I Gray updated members on the work of the Society.

(i) Sedgefield Health Network

Vacancy on this Outside Body.

(j) Friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve

Councillor I Gray reported on the progress of the Group.

(k) Friends of West Park

Nothing to report.

(l) Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway

Councillor J. Atkinson gave a report on the Group's meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February.

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

**CHAIRMAN.**