

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 13th MARCH 2013** at **7.15 p.m.**

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

IN ATTENDANCE Mr. Ron Hogg, Police and Crime Commissioner for County Durham and Darlington.

OFFICIALS Mr. A. Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mrs. C. Walton (Corporate and Policy Officer)
Miss A.J. Donald (Town Clerk's Secretary)

129. **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

130. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs. I. Hewitson.

131. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATION**

No dispensation requests had been received.

132. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest given.

133. **POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

Mr. Ron Hogg, the recently appointed Police and Crime Commissioner for County Durham and Darlington updated members on a number of items. Details were given regarding the police budget and staffing arrangements and partnership working with neighbouring police forces. The new police station in Newton Aycliffe was expected to be operational in approximately one year's time. Policing priorities were identified as being community engagement, hate crime and domestic abuse.

Mr Hogg answered a number of questions from members. Members expressed disappointment that the county police garage would not be situated in Newton Aycliffe.

Mr Hogg was thanked for his comprehensive presentation. Members welcomed Mr Hogg's commitment to attend a full Council meeting at least once a year.

134. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming, seconded by Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on the 30th January 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

135. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had submitted a list of appointments she had attended for the period 31st January 2013 to the 13th March 2013.

The Mayor gave special mention to a meeting of visitors from Pakistan at Greenfield Community College and the hosting of visitors from the Romanian Inspectorate at the Council Offices, thanking the Deputy Mayor and Councillors J.D. Clare and R.S. Fleming for their assistance with the latter. The Annual Civic Dinner and Dance had been very successful and the Mayor expressed her thanks to everyone who had assisted. The Mayor also thanked the Agnew Community Centre and Councillor I. Gray for donations to her charity.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

136. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions raised by the Public.

137. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

(a) **Environment Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor V. Crosby, seconded by Councillor B. Hall and

RESOLVED – as follows:

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

(b) **Recreation Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor V. Crosby, seconded by Councillor M. Iveson and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the Recreation Committee held on the 27th February 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 J.D. Clare and

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 6th March 2013 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

138. **NALC CONFERENCE – PUTTING COMMUNITIES FIRST**

Information had been submitted in connection with the the NALC Conference 'Putting Communities First' to be held in Sheffield on the 11th July.

RESOLVED - that the Town Clerk and one member should attend this conference, with the member representative to be selected following the forthcoming Council election.

139. **AYCLIFFE VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Correspondence from Aycliffe Village Primary School was considered. Whilst Members appreciated the content of the letter, it was noted that several of the items requested were not within the powers of the Town Council.

RESOLVED – that a suitable letter be sent and the Town Council's Environment Officer be requested to contact the school to talk about the Town Council's work.

140. **HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY**

The Town Clerk submitted a report to advise members of the Council's revised Health and Safety Policy and arrangements which have been produced to ensure the Council meets its obligations as an employer under Health and Safety legislation.

The Town Clerk also explained that the Council has a duty under the Health and Safety Act to obtain competent advice from a health and safety professional. It was proposed that this service, for which budget provision had already been made, be provided by Aviva Risk Management Solutions.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- i) That Members endorse the proposed Health and Safety Policy Statement.
- ii) That approval be given for the Chairman to sign the Policy Statement.
- iii) That the contents of the Health and Safety Manual be agreed.
- iv) That a Proposal for Competent Person Support from Aviva Risk Management Solutions be accepted.

141. **LAND AT TRAVELLERS GREEN**

Councillor Mrs. S.J. Iveson left the meeting during the discussion on this item.

The Town Clerk submitted a report to advise members of an approach made by Livin in regard to the possible acquisition of Town Council land at Travellers Green.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- i) That members agree in principle to the sale of the land.
- ii) That the Town Clerk and relevant Officers may enter into further negotiations with Livin in regard to the proposal.

142. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

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

- (a) Youth Council
Councillor V. Crosby gave an update.
- (b) County Durham Association of Local Councils (AGM)
There had been no meetings.
- (c) Citizens Advice Bureau
Councillor B. Hall gave an update.
- (d) Woodham Village Community Association
Councillor K. Henderson gave an update on the Community Association.
- (e) Great Aycliffe and Middridge A.A.P. Local Council's Committee
A meeting would be arranged shortly.
- (f) Larger Local Councils' Forum
Councillor R.S. Fleming reported that a meeting had taken place at Seaham at which Councillor J.D. Clare had given a presentation.
- (g) Lifelong Learning Committee
No meeting had taken place.
- (h) Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre
Councillor Mrs. K. Hopper gave an update on the Youth Centre meeting.
- (i) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society
Councillor I. Gray gave members an update on this Society.
- (j) Health and Wellbeing Partnership Network
A meeting would be held next week.
- (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.