

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 15th JULY 2015** at **7.15 p.m.**

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

IN ATTENDANCE Mr. Cameron Waddell, Director, Mazars LLP

OFFICIALS Mr. A. Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mr. D. Austin (Finance Manager)
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin. Officer)

39. **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

40. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors E. Adam and Mrs. S. Haigh.

41. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATION**

No dispensation requests had been received.

42. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest given.

43. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from members of the public.

44. **AUDIT COMPLETION REPORT**

The Mayor welcomed Mr. Cameron Waddell, Director of Mazars LLP to the meeting to present the Audit Completion Report for 2014/15.

The Auditors had given the Council an unqualified opinion on the financial statements and the Value for Money aspect of the Council.

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That Mr. Waddell be thanked for his attendance to present the Audit Completion Report.
- (ii) That the information from the report be received.
- (iii) That the Finance Team be congratulated on the excellent results they have achieved in obtaining an unqualified audit opinion.

45. **MINUTES**

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

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 10th June and the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on the 22nd June 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

46. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- (a) The Mayor had submitted a list of appointments she had attended for the period 11 June 2015 to the 15 July 2015.

The Mayor gave a special mention to the Graduation Presentations she had attended at St. Oswalds Pre-School and also to the excellent work that had been carried by the Works Section making St. Oswald's Park a pleasure to visit and a credit to the town.

- (b) The Town Clerk informed members that Ms. Angela Corner who had been appointed as Community Neighbourhood Engagement Officer had tendered her resignation and would be leaving on the 4 August 2015.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the information from the Mayor be received.
- (ii) That a letter of thanks be forwarded to Angela Corner for the excellent work she has undertaken for the Neighbourhood Plan and wishing her well for the future.

47. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

(a) **Environment Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor A.M. Chandran, seconded by Councillor N. Collinson and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 1st July 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 Akinson and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the Recreation Committee held on the 1st July 2015 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 M Iveson and

RESOLVED – as follows:-

(i) That the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 8th July 2015 be received, and

(ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

48. **CONCLUSION OF THE 2014/15 AUDIT OF THE COUNCIL'S ACCOUNTS**

The Finance Manager submitted a report and a copy of the 'letter of representation' which is required by the Council's external auditors as part of the completion of the annual audit of the Council.

There had been some minor amendments to the Statement of Accounts following the audit, mainly relating to presentational issues and additional explanation.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

(i) That the minor amendments to the Statement of Accounts following the completion of the Audit be agreed and incorporated into the signed Statement of Accounts approved by the Council on the 22nd June 2015.

(ii) That the contents of the letter of representation be approved.

(iii) That the letter of representation be signed by the Chairman of the Council, Town Clerk and Finance Manager and forwarded to Mazars LLP.

(iv) That following receipt of the final audit opinion and audit closure certificate being received the notice of the completion of the Audit of the Accounts of the Council be advertised in the local press in accordance with the statutory framework.

49. **LAND AND BUILDINGS ASSET REVALUATIONS**

The Finance Manager submitted a report setting out information and indicative costs regarding the possible revaluation of the Council's land and building assets.

Members were asked to consider whether they wished to undertake a revaluation of its land and building fixed assets with effect from the 2015/16 financial year and thereafter every five years.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

(i) That the report be received.

(ii) That a revaluation of the Council's Land and Building Assets be carried out during the 2015/16 financial year at an approximate cost of £4,000.

50. **NALC SUPER COUNCIL NETWORK COUNCILS**

Information had been received from NALC Larger Local Councils' Committee in respect of the establishment of a Super Councils Network representing the needs of large precepting Councils in England.

Members were asked whether they wished to nominate a representative to serve on the Super Councils Network Committee from October 2015 to October 2016.

RESOLVED – that this Council does not submit a nomination for the Super Council Network Committee.

51. **TAXI LICENSING POLICY REVIEW – CONSULTATION**

Information had been received in respect of a consultation in respect of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy seeking comments from this Council.

RESOLVED – that Councillors who wished to comment on the consultation may do so individually direct to Durham County Council.

52. **DURHAM COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS – NOMINATIONS**

A letter had been forwarded seeking members to consider submitting nominations for County Association positions in readiness for the Annual General Meeting of the Association in October.

Positions to be filled were:-

President
Three Vice-Presidents
Honorary Treasurer
Honorary Auditor

It was pointed out that the position of Honorary Auditor was currently held by Mr. A. Bailey of Great Aycliffe Town Council. It was suggested that it would be more appropriate to name Mr. D. Austin, Finance officer, as the Honorary Auditor.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the Council would support the re-election of the current post holders in the following positions:-

President
Three Vice-Presidents
Honorary Treasurer

- (ii) That Mr. D. Austin be nominated for the position of Honorary Treasurer.

53. **LIGHTSOURCE RENEWABLE ENERGY**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report and information seeking members approval to enter into an agreement by way of a deed between Lightsource Renewable Energy and the Town Council to receive and distribute an annual benefit payment following planning approval to install solar panels at a site off School Aycliffe Lane.

In order to receive any capacity payments by way of a Community Benefit Scheme the Council would be required to enter into an agreement by signing a Deed of Offer. Whilst the final payments to be received could not be confirmed it was anticipated that it would be circa. £1,125 per year over a period of 20 years.

Members were asked to consider a mechanism for the distribution of the Community benefit Funds which would be received.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That it be authorised for the Deed of Offer to be signed.
- (iii) That it be authorised for the Bribery Act 2010 Compliance Form to be signed.
- (iv) That the monies received be added to the Grants/Donations Budget to be used in support of 'green initiatives' with advice from the Council's Environment Officer.

54. **CONTAMINATED LAND INSPECTION STRATEGY CONSULTATION**

Durham County Council had submitted information seeking comments on the Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy Consultation.

RESOLVED – that the information be received and no comments made.

55. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

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

- (a) Youth Council
Councillor D.G. Atkinson gave an update.
- (b) County Durham Association of Local Councils
No Report
- (c) Aycliffe Village Community Association
Councillor C. Wheeler gave an update.

- (d) Woodham Village Community Association
Councillor K Henderson updated members on the new extension.
- (e) Great Aycliffe and Middridge Local Councils' Committee
No Meeting.
- (f) Larger Local Councils' Forum
Meeting scheduled for next week.
- (g) Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre
Meeting scheduled for the 21st July.
- (h) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society
Councillor I Gray gave an update.
- (i) Friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve
Councillor I Gray gave an update.
- (j) Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway
Councillor J. Atkinson gave an update on the recent Conference.
- (k) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
Councillor B. Hall reported on the progress to date and wished to record his personal thanks to Angela Corner for her work on the Neighbourhood Plan and wish her well in her new post.

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

CHAIRMAN.