

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 16th OCTOBER 2013 at 7.15 p.m.**

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

OFFICIALS Mr. A. Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mrs. C. Walton (Corporate and Policy Officer)
Mr. D. Austin (Finance Manager)
Mr. S. Cooper (Environment Officer)
Mrs J Thexton (Leisure Manager)
Mr. D. Thompson (Works Manager)
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin. Officer)

OBITUARY

The Town Clerk informed the meeting of the death of former Mayor of Great Aycliffe for 1995-96 - Mr. Jim Rodwell.

It was also reported that Mr. Fred Trace from the Byerely Park Environment Group has also died.

Members and Officers stood and observed a silence in their memory.

37. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors W.M. Blenkinsopp, R. Bowman, M.A. Dalton, K. Henderson, J.P. Hillary, Mrs. W.P. Hillary and C. Wheeler.

38. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

No applications for dispensations had been received.

39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

40. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no questions from the public.

41. MINUTES

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

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 4th September 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

42. **ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

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

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

43. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Works Manager and Environment Officer submitted their report for the six weeks ended the 6th October 2013.

The report updated members on the work being undertaken by volunteer groups and works which had commenced on the Seven Hills Woodland.

Information was given on burials which had taken place together with information on the thefts of ornaments from West Cemetery.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the Park Wardens be commended on their actions in apprehending the culprit.
- (iii) That the reward which had been offered for the return of the ornaments be investigated for the Park Wardens.

44. **BYERLEY PARK LOCAL NATURE RESERVE WETLANDS**

The Environment Officer submitted a report to present a proposal to expand the current wetland network of ponds at Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve with two more ponds in between those existing ponds.

RESOLVED – that the work on the development of the two ponds as outlined by the Environment Officer be agreed.

45. **GRANTS OF GRAVE SPACE**

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

West Cemetery

Grave No. I 225	Ben Bennett
Grave No. I 226	Jacki Suzanne Birch
Grave No. R 30	Trevor Michael Scoones
Grave No. J 38	John Casson

46. **WINTER WORKING PARTNERSHIP – DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Works Manager submitted a report setting out information on the winter maintenance partnership arrangements with Durham County Council for 2013/14.

RESOLVED - that the information be received.

47. **LORRY PARK**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report giving further information on the provision of the Lorry Park and its current status and covenants.

The report sought members views on the future of the Lorry Park and whether the covenants should be removed in respect of its use.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That problems associated with the Lorry Park be monitored at the present time.
- (iii) That pending further incidents occurring a decision would be made on whether the covenants be removed and the Lorry Park closed.

48. **2014/2015 DRAFT ENVIRONMENT REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS**

The Finance Manager had submitted a draft Revenue and Capital Budget for 2014/2015 for members' consideration in respect of the Environment Committee.

Members considered each section of the Budgets for the Environment Committee and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the report and draft Revenue and Capital Budget figures for 2013/14 be received.

49. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Councillor J.D. Clare wished to declare an interest in item No. 1(b) – however, he would remain in the meeting and not take part in any decision.

(1) The Committee considered the undermentioned planning applications:

- (a) Erection of two storey side extension – 19 Crewe Road, Newton Aycliffe.
- (b) Change of use from warehouse and showroom to health and fitness gym – Unit 5, Durham Way, South Aycliffe Business Park, Newton Aycliffe.
- (c) Proposed felling of 1No. Norway Maple and 1No. Horse Chestnut and raising canopy to 3 metres and branch trimming of 1No. Norway Maple – Village Green, Aycliffe Village.

- (d) Two storey side extension and single storey front extension – 44 Lowther Drive, Newton Aycliffe.
- (e) Rendering of the property and new windows – 1 The Wynd, Aycliffe Village.
- (f) Change of use to taxi booking office – F10 Langton Business Centre, Durham Way, Newton Aycliffe.

(2) The Council to receive 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 listed comments on each application:-

- (a) Demolition of Churchill House and associated retail units, retention of Clock Tower and soft landscaping at Beveridge Way, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.
- (b) Change of use of land to side and front of property from open space to private garden and erection of 1-2m high boundary wall at St. Andrew's Court, Newton Aycliffe.
The Town Council noted the changes to the boundary fence but would still object to the change of use from amenity green area to private garden.
- (c) Single storey rear/side extension – 1 Linguard Walk, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.
- (d) Demolition of garages and erection of 4No. dwellings on land adjacent to 169 Linden Place, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.
- (e) Erection of side extension to link property to the garage (and rear garden room extension) at 16 Acle Meadows, Newton Aycliffe.
The Council would have no objection to the proposal, although we would request that the Planning Authority consider a specific condition stating no business may be run from the property at any time.
- (f) Reserved matters application for 3No. dwellings – land to the North West of the Huntsman Public House, St. Elizabeth Close, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.
- (g) Erection of 2No. single storey rear extensions – 6 The Bridle, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.
- (h) Formation of 52 additional car parking spaces and 12 cycle spaces at Ness Furniture Ltd., St. Cuthberts Way, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended:-

- (i) That applications 1 (a) to (d) and (f) – no objections.
- (ii) That application 1(e) - be noted that this Council have no objections as long it meets with the criteria of a conservation area.
- (iii) That applications 2 (a) to (h) – information be received.
- (iv) That representatives from the Town Centre Management be invited to attend a meeting of the Council to give an update on the Town Centres progress.

CHAIRMAN.