

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 24<sup>th</sup> APRIL 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, Mrs. I. Hewitson, J.P. Hillary, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, Mrs. K. Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson and Mrs. V.M. Raw.

**OFFICIALS**                Mr. A. Bailey (Town Clerk)  
Mrs. C. Walton (Corporate and Policy Officer)  
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin. Officer)

143.    **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

144.    **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs. A. Palmer and A. Warburton.

145.    **MEMBERS' DISPENSATION**

No dispensation requests had been received.

146.    **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest given.

147.    **MINUTES**

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

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

148.    **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had submitted a list of appointments she had attended for the period 14<sup>th</sup> March 2013 to the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

The Mayor spoke of the many interesting events she had attended one which had been special was the visit to the World Down Syndrome Day held at the Xcel Centre. Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe had presented a cheque to her charities at a dinner in Redworth Hall.

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

149. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions raised by the Public.

150. **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 10<sup>th</sup> April 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 M. Iveson and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the Recreation Committee held on the 10<sup>th</sup> April 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 17<sup>th</sup> April 2013 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

151. **JUNCTION OF BURN LANE AND BURNHILL WAY**

Councillor W. Curtis gave a verbal report on the dangers to pedestrians, cyclists and motorists at the roundabout at the junction of Burn Lane and Burnhill Way. At busy times it was difficult for pedestrians to cross the road due to the speed of, and direction of, approaching vehicles at the roundabout. Similar difficulties are experienced by drivers as the size and alignment of the roundabout makes fast manoeuvring possible.

It was proposed by Councillor W. Curtis and seconded by Councillor R.S. Fleming, that this Council write to the Highways Department of Durham County Council requesting that they conduct a safety inspection of the roundabout preferably early in the morning (8 a.m. – 10 a.m.) and afternoon (3 p.m. – 5 p.m.).

That the matter be also referred to a County Councillor to support this proposal.

**RESOLVED** - as follows:

- (i) That a letter be forwarded to Durham County Council Highways Department asking them to conduct a safety inspection at the roundabout on the junction of Burn Lane and Burnhill Way in order to find a solution to the dangers experienced by pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.
- (ii) That County Councillor Mrs. J. Gray would also persue this matter with the Highways Department.

152 **GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE**

The Town Clerk submitted a report advising members of changes by legislation which have repealed the Power of Well-being in England and its replacement by the General Power of Competence under the Localism Act 2011.

The Council would need to adopt the Power of General Competence in order to continue to give grants to individuals and local organisations. It would also allow the Council to consider new innovative ways to meet the needs of local people.

Standing Order No. 26 is now obsolete and needs to be replaced with a Standing Order for the Power of General Competence. This new Standing Order would need to be adopted at the A.G.M.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That a further report be submitted to the Council's Annual General Meeting to consider and formally adopt the General Power of Competence.
- (iii) That Standing Order No. 26 – "Power of Well-being" is deleted and replaced with a new Standing order "General Power of Competence".

153. **ALLEGATIONS OF BREACHES OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report to advise members of a change to the Council's Standing Orders. Standing Order No. 32 – "Allegations of Breaches of the Code" being no longer applicable to the operation of the new Code of Conduct.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the current Standing Order No. 32 be deleted and be replaced for adoption at the Annual General meeting.

154. **ACCIDENT STATISTICS**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report setting out accident statistics for the period January 2012 to December 2012.

The report gave details of staff accidents and reported public accidents across the Council.

For information purposes a copy of the accident statistics for years 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 had also been supplied to identify trends.

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

155. **MEMBER TRAINING UPDATE**

The Town Clerk submitted a report to give members information in respect of attendances at training events during the municipal year 2012/13 and to also give information on arrangements for member training in 2013/14.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the information in respect of training for new and existing members be noted following the May elections.

156. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

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

- (a) Youth Council  
Councillor V. Crosby gave his last report and update on the Youth Council and the events they were planning over the coming year. They had also considered grants to organisation. Councillor Crosby thanked the Corporate and Policy Officer for her work with the Youth Council and the support she gave to them.
- (b) County Durham Association of Local Councils (AGM)  
There had been no meetings.
- (c) Citizens Advice Bureau  
The next meeting would be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> April.
- (d) Woodham Village Community Association  
Councillor K. Henderson gave an update on the Community Association stating that the last upgrading works to the building was almost finished and the Centre was thriving.
- (e) Great Aycliffe and Middridge A.A.P. Local Council's Committee  
A meeting would be arranged shortly.
- (f) Larger Local Councils' Forum  
No meeting organised until after the elections.

- (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  
Councillor Iveson 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.**