

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the **RECREATION COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **THURSDAY, 29<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2013** at **7.15 p.m.**

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

**OFFICIALS**    Mr. A. Bailey (Town Clerk)  
Mrs. J. Thexton (Leisure Manager)  
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin. Officer)

26.    **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors W.M. Blenkinsopp, M.A. Dalton, Mrs. S. Haigh, Mrs. I. Hewitson and Mrs. V.M. Raw.

27.    **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

28.    **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

29.    **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from members of the public.

30.    **FIREWORK DISPLAY 2013**

The Town Clerk and the Leisure Manager had submitted a report in regard to the viability of the provision of a firework display following meetings with the County Durham Safety Advisory Group (SAG).

The future of the Firework Display was being questioned following the large number of visitors in the previous year. Parking issues, insurance and crowd safety issues were considered together with possible solutions.

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming and seconded by Councillor J.D. Clare that we cancel this year's fireworks display.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor A.M. Chandran and seconded by Councillor E.M. Adam that in view of the fact that the Town Clerk, as Principal Advisor, to the Council is recommending that we do not proceed with this year's display out of concerns for public health and safety and council corporate responsibility, and in view of the short timescale now available to achieve anything decisive this year, that this year's firework display be cancelled for this year.

That this council is committed to the annual fireworks display as a safer method for the community to enjoy a display, reducing fireworks in the community and the risk of fires and injuries in the community, by having an approved well run event.

With that objective in mind we instruct the Officers of the Council to look at all necessary measures to ensure that we can put on the fireworks display for 2014, fully meeting with SAG approval.

A named vote took place on the amendment which resulted as follows:-

For the amendment:

Councillors E. Adam, J. Atkinson, R. Bowman, A.M. Chandran, J. Clark, N. Collinson, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, G.C. Gray, B. Hall, J.P. Hillary, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson, P. Kjenstad, D. Summers, T. Twissell and C. Wheeler.

Against the amendment:

Councillor J.D. Clare, Mrs. B.A. Clare and I. Gray.

The amendment was then carried.

The substantive motion was then put to the vote and was unanimously agreed.

**RESOLVED** it be recommended:

- (i) The report be received.
- (ii) That the firework display for 2013 be cancelled.
- (iii) That Officers look at all necessary measures to ensure that the Council can put on a fireworks display in 2014 which will fully meet with Safety Advisory Group approval.

**CHAIRMAN.**