

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 29<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2014** at **7.15 p.m.**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE** Mr. G. Wood (Economic Development Manager – D.C.C.)

**OFFICIALS**                Mr. A. Bailey (Town Clerk)  
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin Officer)

114. **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

115. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors R. Bowman, M.A. Dalton, Mrs. S. Haigh, Mrs. I. Hewitson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson, P. Kjenstad and Mrs. V.M. Raw.

116. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATION**

No dispensation requests had been received.

117. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest given.

118. **ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE – NEWTON AYCLIFFE**

Mr. Graham Wood from the Regeneration and Economic Development at Durham County Council was in attendance to give an update on employer engagement on the Aycliffe Business Park.

Mr. Wood gave members current information on the falling unemployment figures together with information on apprenticeships.

Members praised the County Council for the works which had carried out on Aycliffe Business Park.

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions of Mr. Wood.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That Mr. Wood be thanked for his attendance and for the information provided in updating the Council on the current position with employment prospects.
- (ii) That Mr. Wood would pass on the Council's concerns over D.C.C. land in the area of 'The Cubby' which had been a problem for many years.

**Note:**

**Councillor G.C. Gray left the meeting at the point in the proceedings.**

119. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton, seconded by Councillor B. Hall and

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

120. **ANNOUNCEMENTS / PRESENTATION**

The Mayor had submitted a list of appointments she had attended for the period 12<sup>th</sup> December 2013 to the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

She gave an outline on some of the memorable events she had attended and thanked the Deputy Mayor for her attendance at some of the events she had been unable to attend.

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

121. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions raised by the Public.

122. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

(a) **Environment Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor I. Gray, seconded by Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014 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. Atkinson and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the Recreation Committee held on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014 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. Atkinson and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

123. **LAND AT TRAVELLERS GREEN**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report advising members of the progress in regard to the potential sale of land at Travellers Green to 'Livin'.

The land had been valued by the District Valuation Office with the cost of this service being funded by 'Livin' together with any legal costs incurred by the Council in the sale.

**RESOLVED** - as follows:-

- (i) That the proposal to sell off the unused land asset, formally know and recorded as New Lane Caravan Storage Site to 'Livin' for the development of social housing be agreed.
- (ii) That it be stipulated that the sale of the land would be for the provision of older persons accommodation in the form of bungalows or apartments.
- (iii) That the sale price for the land be £110,000 in addition 'Livin' to confirm that it will pay for the Council's associated legal costs.
- (iv) That the Council would enter into an options agreement for an advance of £2,000 to be deducted from the £110,000.
- (v) That it be stipulated that an access by pedestrians and vehicles to the Great Aycliffe Way and Nature Park be maintained and written into the agreement together with any covenants associated with the land being passed on.
- (vi) That an access to the Nature Park and Great Aycliffe Way during and after the works are carried out, be maintained.

124. **ROYAL GARDEN PARTIES**

Information had been received from CDALC seeking nominations from this Council for inclusion in a draw for the 4 places allocated for this year.

The Mayor and partner have usually been the nominees from this Council, however, the Mayor would not be able to attend on the dates allocated.

**RESOLVED** – that on this occasion the Council does not make a nomination for possible attendance at the Royal Garden Party.

125. **CHAIRMAN'S MEDAL – D.C.C.**

Information had been submitted asking the Council if they wished to make a nomination to the D.C.C. Chairman's Medal Awards.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That no nomination be made from this Council.
- (ii) That it be noted that personal nominations could be made.

126. **GOLF MANAGER'S CONTRACT**

The Town Clerk informed members that the newly appointed Golf Manager had signed her contract which had been officially sealed with the Council's seal.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recorded that the Golf Manager's Contract had been officially sealed on behalf of the Council.

127. **AREA COMMITTEE STRUCTURE**

The Town Clerk submitted a report setting out a proposal to change the area committee structure from thirteen groups to a North, South, East and West Group of Councils.

The suggested arrangements would see Great Aycliffe and Middridge partnered with a further 22 Parish and Town Councils as opposed to being partnered as only 2 Councils at the current time.

Members were asked for their comments on the proposals.

**RESOLVED** – that a letter be forwarded to CDALC informing them that this Council is opposed to the proposals for Great Aycliffe and Middridge to be partnered with a further 22 Parish and Town Councils.

128. **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

An application for a dispensation for non-attendance at meetings of the Council had been received from Councillor M.A. Dalton due to his ill health.

**RESOLVED** – that a dispensation for non-attendance at meetings be granted to Councillor M.A. Dalton during his period of ill health.

129. **SPECIAL RECREATION COMMITTEE**

A Special Recreation Committee meeting has been called to consider issues relating to the Oakleaf Golf Club. Due to the timescale of the statutory meetings calendar and the forthcoming golf season it is necessary to consider granting delegated powers to the Recreation Committee to deal with these issues.

**RESOLVED** – that delegated powers be given to a Special Recreation Committee in order to deal with issues relating to the Oakleaf Golf Club and the setting of the 2014 charges for the Golf Complex.

130. **NALC CONFERENCE – “WHAT NEXT FOR LOCALISM”**

Information had been submitted in respect of the NALC Conference to be held in London on the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2014 asking if a member of the Council would wish to attend.

**RESOLVED** – that this Council be not represented at the Conference.

131. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

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

(a) Youth Council

Councillor D. Summers gave an update on the AGM when the new officers had been appointed.

(b) County Durham Association of Local Councils (AGM)

No meeting.

(c) Citizens Advice Bureau

No representative.

(d) Woodham Village Community Association

Councillor K. Henderson gave an update.

(e) Great Aycliffe and Middridge Local Council's Committee

No meeting.

(f) Larger Local Councils' Forum

Next meeting would be the 15<sup>th</sup> February.

(g) Lifelong Learning Committee

No meeting.

(h) Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre

Councillor D. Summers gave an update.

(i) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society

Councillor I Gray reported on this Society and his attendance at a Trustees Meeting.

(j) Health and Wellbeing Partnership Network

Councillor Collinson informed members that he was awaiting information on the Core Membership of the Network and would report back.

(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.**