

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 30th OCTOBER 2013** at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs. B. A. Clare (Chairman) and

Councillors E. Adam, D.G. Atkinson, J. Atkinson, B. Blenkinsopp, T.R. Bowman, A.M. Chandran, J.D. Clare, J. Clark, N. Collinson, Mrs. M. Dalton, M.A. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, G.C. Gray, I. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, 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. Raw, D. Summers, T. Twissell and C. Wheeler.

OFFICIALS

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

78. **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

79. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs. A. Palmer.

80. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATION**

No dispensation requests had been received.

81. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest given.

82. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming, seconded by Councillor J. Atkinson and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on the 18th September 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

83. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had submitted a list of appointments she had attended for the period 19th September to the 30th October 2013.

She spoke on the various appointments she had attended and thanked the Deputy Mayor for attending on her behalf at the Xcel Centre. She had recently attended the funerals of the Deputy Mayor of Shildon, Councillor Mrs. Theda Mary Bannister, and Mr. Jim Rodwell who had been a past Mayor of Great Aycliffe.

The Mayor supplied information on her forthcoming Charity Night.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

84. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions raised by the Public.

85. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

(a) **Environment Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor J.D. Clare, seconded by Councillor M.A. Dalton and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 16th October 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 C. Wheeler and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the Recreation Committee held on the 16th October 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 E. Adam and

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 23rd October 2013 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

86. **NOTICE OF MOTION**

Councillor P. Kjenstad had proposed the following Notice of Motion which was seconded by Councillor M.A. Dalton.

“That Great Aycliffe Town Council should lobby Durham County Council, the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner and/or the local M.P. into seeking a change to vehicle speed limits outside of every school in Great Aycliffe and the County of Durham by the reduction of the statutory speed limit to 20mph and the introduction of more School Safety Zones”.

RESOLVED - as follows:-

- (i) That the Town Clerk write to Durham County Council informing them that the Council would like to see 20mph limits outside of all schools and that we support their endeavours in trying to implement these limits.
- (ii) That Councillor Kjenstad be congratulated for bringing this Notice of Motion to Council.

87. **DRAFT DURHAM COUNTY LOCAL PLAN**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report for Members to consider a Town Council response to the Local Plan submission final consultation.

A supplementary planning document had been circulated giving detailed information on the expansion and development of some 900+ houses proposed for Low Copelaw, Newton Aycliffe and seeking this Council's comments.

The consultation was due to end on the 6th December, however, it was felt that before any comments could be made further information was needed from an Officer of Durham County Council and it was proposed that Mr. S. Timmiss be invited to the next meeting of the Environment Committee to give a presentation and answer questions.

It was further proposed that in view of the limited time for a response the Environment Committee be given delegated powers to be able to make a decision and forward the Council's proposals to the Plan to the County Council.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That Mr. S. Timmiss from Durham County Council be invited to attend the next meeting of the Environment Committee to give a presentation and answer questions in order that this Council can make a response to the Local Plan Submission Final consultation.
- (iii) That in view of the limited time for a response, delegated powers be given to the Environment Committee to make a decision and forward this Authorities proposals to the County Council.

88. **FORMER ELMFIELD JUNIOR & INFANT SCHOOL – DISPOSAL OF LAND**

Correspondence had been received from Durham County Council seeking comments from this Authority on proposals to dispose of playing field land at the former Elmfield Junior & Infant School following its closure in 2007.

Following a lengthy discussion it was proposed that this land should be considered to be developed for social housing especially bungalows and that monies be sought from the development of the Ropemoor site to develop this area.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That Durham County Council be contacted and informed that this Council would wish to see social houses, i.e. bungalows, being developed on this site.

- (ii) That monies be sought for the development of this site from the Ropemoor development.

89. **LICENSING APPLICATION – NEW PREMISES**

Information had been received in respect of a New Premises Licence for the sale of alcohol via telephone and internet sales from Gifts International, Unit K750 – 8 Hurworth Road, Newton Aycliffe.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That this Council have no objections to the use of the premises for the delivery of alcohol incorporated in gift packages.
- (ii) That sales of alcohol only packages / deliveries to the local community should be avoided.

90. **NEWTON AYCLIFFE REDEVELOPMENT – PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report, for information, to provide feedback from the Partnership Meeting on the progress made against delivering the Newton Aycliffe shopping Centre Materplan.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

91. **LAND AT TRAVELLERS GREEN**

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

The project would be to develop social housing bungalows by redeveloping the former bungalows, demolishing a former garage block and using land which was previously used as caravan storage by this Authority.

It was pointed out the sale of the land would institute a 'claw back' of the sale. The District Valuer had been contacted to provide an independent valuation of the land.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That any legal costs for the sale of the land be borne by 'Livin'.
- (iii) That a further update report be provided once more details have been obtained.

92. **COUNTY DURHAM LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

Information had been received from County Durham Local Access Forum seeking the recruitment of new members to join their Forum. The Forum were looking to recruit persons who would be able to have an active role in the development of a wide range of recreational and conservation works.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That enquiries be made on the amount of time that would be needed to be a representative of this Forum.
- (ii) That following receipt of suitable information, Councillor I. Gray, be nominated to be recruited to this Forum.

93. **GREAT AYCLIFFE PARISH BOUNDARY**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report to update members on the proposal to change Parish Boundaries in two locations, Eldon Whins (Middridge) and School Aycliffe (Heighington, Darlington).

A response had been received from both affected Parish Councils stating that they did not agree with the proposals to change the boundaries of their parishes.

Following discussion it was proposed that the Council take no further action in respect of the Southern boundary area (Heighington), however, we should pursue the boundary change at Eldon Whins (Middridge) area through a Community Governance Review.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That this Council take no further action in respect of the Southern boundary area (Heighington).
- (iii) That this Council pursue the boundary change at Eldon Whins (Middridge) area through a Community Governance Review by application to Durham County Council.

94. **NEWTON AYCLIFFE POST OFFICE**

Information had been received informing the Council of the proposal to move the Post Office in the Town Centre and seek any comments.

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

95. **PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE**

Authority was being sought for delegated powers to be given to the Personnel Sub-Committee to be able to recruit and appoint the Golf Manager.

RESOLVED – that delegated powers be given to the Personnel Sub-Committee in order that they could recruit and appoint the Golf Manager.

96. **NOTICE OF MOTION**

Councillor R.S. Fleming had proposed the following Notice of Motion

“That Great Aycliffe Town Council consider making a presentation to Father Michael Campion for his services to the people of Newton Aycliffe”.

RESOLVED - as follows:-

- (i) That a suitable engraved gift be purchased.
- (ii) That Father Campion be invited to a future meeting to be formally presented with his gift.

97. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

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

(a) Youth Council

Councillor D. Summers gave information on the elections which had taken place to appoint the new Youth Council and that their meetings would be held on a Monday evening.

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

Councillor R.S. Fleming gave information on the AGM which had taken place.

(c) Citizens Advice Bureau

No representative.

(d) Woodham Village Community Association

Councillor K. Henderson gave an update.

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

Notes of the meeting had been circulated for information.

(f) Larger Local Councils' Forum

No meeting.

(g) Lifelong Learning Committee

No meeting – still awaiting information re changes to this Committee.

(h) Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre

Councillor D. Summers gave a report.

(i) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society

Councillor I Gray reported on this Society.

(j) Health and Wellbeing Partnership Network

Councillor Collinson had been unable to attend the meeting.

(k) Friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve

Councillor I Gray reported on the meeting held in September.

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

CHAIRMAN.