

Minutes of a Meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 3rd DECEMBER 2014 at 7.15 p.m.**

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

IN ATTENDANCE Councillor P. Kjenstad.

OFFICERS Mr. A. Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mr. D. Austin (Finance Manager)
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin. Officer)

65. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors W. Blenkinsopp, R. Bowman, Mrs. B.A. Clare, M.A. Dalton, Mrs. I. Hewitson, Mrs. A. Palmer, D. Summers and C. Wheeler.

66. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

67. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No new declarations of interest had been submitted.

68. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from the public.

69. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor J.D. Clare, seconded by Councillor E.M. Adam and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 22nd October 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

70. **CHARGES WORKING GROUP**

Notes and recommendations from the meeting of the Charges Working Group held on the 22nd October 2014 were submitted for consideration.

It was proposed by Councillor J.D. Clare, seconded by Councillor B. Hall and

RESOLVED – that the notes and recommendations of the Charges Working Group held on the 22nd October 2014 be received and approved.

71. **ACCOUNTS CONTROL SHEETS**

Accounts control sheets for the period 13th October 2014 to the 21st November 2014 and the General Bank Accounts for October 2014 were submitted.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the accounts control sheets for the period 13th October 2014 to the 21st November 2014 and the General Bank Accounts for October 2014 be received.

72. **GRANTS / DONATIONS**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report which gave the current donation budget for this financial year as £5,065.

The following requests had been received:

- (a) Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group
- (b) Royal Navy Submariners
- (c) Lifeline Community Action

Aycliffe Youth Council

The current Youth Council grant for 2014/15 was £1,452.

There had been no applications received for grants to date.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group
That a donation of £200 be given to the Cancer Support Group.
- (iii) Royal Navy Submariners
That no donation be made on this occasion.
- (iv) Lifeline Community Action
That a donation of £300 be given to Lifeline Community Action however, a copy of their recently audited balance sheet be obtained.
- (v) Aycliffe Youth Council
That the information in respect of the Youth Council be noted.

73. **PRE-SCHOOL LEARNING CENTRES**

The Early Years Officer and Town Clerk submitted a report to provide the Committee with information regarding the Pre-School Learning Centres.

The report set out attendance figures, SEND Reforms, Rising 3's, Advertising together with information on Woodham Pre-School transfer to Woodham Burn School.

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

74. **ALARM WORKS TO COUNCIL OFFICES**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report advising members of action which had been taken to overcome a number of issues that had sustained 'false alarm' calls to the alarms of the Council Offices.

A full review of the system had been undertaken and resulted in works in the sum of £1,766.39 being required to upgrade the system.

As there was no budget in place for this work it is requested that an additional sum of £1,750 be added to the 2014/15 Capital Programme Budget to be earmarked from the Council's capital reserves.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That a sum of £1,750 be added to the 2014/15 Capital Programme Budgets from the Capital Reserves for this work.

75. **FUNERAL PARLOUR STEPHENSON WAY – LEASE RENEWAL**

The Town Clerk submitted information in respect of the requirement to renew the lease at Stephenson Way Funeral Parlour to Dignity Funerals Limited.

The lease had been for a period of 20 years from September 1995 and would expire in September 2015 thereby requiring prior negotiations being need to be commenced.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the Town Clerk be authorised to negotiate the lease with the proposals being reported to a future meeting of this Committee.

76. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT PAY AWARD 2015/16**

The Finance Manager had submitted a report requesting approval for the proposed increases to Council Officer salaries and wages for 2014/15 and 2015/16 as notified by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the recommended increases to the Officer salaries and wages be approved.
- (iii) That a copy of the numbers of Council Officers earning less than the living wage be circulated to all Councillors for information.

77. **NOTICE OF MOTION**

Councillor P. Kjenstad had submitted the following notice of motion for consideration:-

“That the Policy and Resources Committee considers requesting Durham County Council to impose 20mph speed restrictions outside schools in Great Aycliffe”.

The following amendment was submitted by Councillor A.M. Chandran and seconded by Councillor E.M. Adam:-

“That the Policy and Resources Committee requests Durham County Council to impose 20mph speed restrictions outside schools in Great Aycliffe where appropriate”.

A vote took place on the amended notice of motion which resulted in a unanimous approval.

Voting then took place on the substantive motion and resulted in a unanimous decision.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the following Notice of Motion be approved.

“That the Policy and Resources Committee requests Durham County Council to impose 20mph speed restrictions outside schools in Great Aycliffe where appropriate”.

- (ii) That Officers contact Durham County Council with this Council’s request.

78. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

It was proposed by Councillor J.D. Clare, seconded by Councillor B. Hall and

RESOLVED – that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it was, in the opinion of the Council, advisable that the public and press be excluded from the meeting.

79. **PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE**

It was proposed by Councillor J. Atkinson, seconded by Councillor B. Hall and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee held on the 26th November 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CHAIRMAN.