

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 4th SEPTEMBER 2013** at **7.15 p.m.**

PRESENT **Councillor J D Clare** (Chairman) and
Councillors E Adam, J Atkinson, B Blenkinsopp,
A M Chandran, Mrs B A Clare, J Clark, N Collinson,
Mrs M 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 M Raw, D Summers, and C Wheeler.

OFFICIALS Mr A Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mr S Cooper (Environment Officer)
Mrs M J Robinson (Leisure & Environment Assistant)
Mrs J Thexton (Leisure Manager)

24. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors M A Dalton and T Twissell.

25. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

26. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

27. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were two statements made by members of the public regarding Agenda Item 11 - Bus Shelter, Aycliffe Village.

Mr Barker explained to members of the problems with anti-social behaviour, graffiti and bad language that a bus shelter may bring. He also expressed concern that the proposed bus shelter would create even greater problems with access to his driveway and also from a safety perspective as it would cause a visual obstruction.

Mrs Burley expressed concern regarding the use of existing shelters. She advised that they and wooden seats in the Village are vandalised with graffiti and smell of urine and vomit.

Mrs Burley also explained that the proposed shelter would cause a major obstruction to traffic and pedestrians trying to cross the road and there would be no visibility if it was to be placed in the proposed position.

28. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R S Fleming seconded by Councillor B Hall and

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 3rd July 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

29. **ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

The Works Manager submitted his report for the nine weeks ended the 25th August 2013. The report detailed inspections and general maintenance to the allotments.

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

30. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Works Manager and Environment Officer submitted their report for the nine weeks ended the 25th August 2013.

The report updated members on the work being undertaken by volunteer groups as well as burials and vandalism.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that the report be received

31. **GRANTS OF GRAVE SPACE**

RESOLVED - that it be noted that the undermentioned grants of grave space had been issued:

West Cemetery

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Grave No. I 240 | S J Pipe |
| Grave No. I 216 | Rebecca Lister |
| Grave No. R 50 | Joan Wales |
| Grave No. N 66 | Darren Collins |

Stephenson Way

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Grave No. F 126 | Elizabeth F Hopper |
| Grave No. F 124 | Susan Peel |
| Grave No. F 125 | Peter J Brett |

32. **STREET LIGHTING POLICY**

Members were asked to consider making a response on behalf of the Council in respect of the Street Lighting Policy Consultation by Durham County Council.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that:

- i the report be received
- ii individual members respond to the survey individually
- iii a link be put on the Council's website to the survey

33. **TREES – AYCLIFFE VILLAGE GREEN**

The Works Manager submitted a report for information advising of the need to remove two trees from Aycliffe Village Green.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that

- i the report be received.
- ii officers take the action necessary to remove the two trees.
- iii additional trees be planted in place of the two trees removed.
- iv a letter be sent to residents advising of the need to remove the trees in the vicinity of the greens.

34. **BUS SHELTER – AYCLIFFE VILLAGE**

The Works Manager submitted a report requesting members to consider bus shelter provision on Durham Road, Aycliffe Village following a recommendation from the Council's Asset Management Member Working Group.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that:

- i the report be received.
- ii a survey be undertaken of residents living in the vicinity to determine if a shelter is necessary.
- iii a further report is brought to this committee when the findings are known.
- iv the letters of objection be received and statements made during public questions be noted.

35. **PROPOSED FOOTPATH DIVERSION**

Members were asked to consider an item regarding the proposed footpath diversion of footpaths 5 and 7 by Durham County and Darlington Borough Councils.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that no objection be made.

36. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

(1) The Committee considered the undermentioned planning applications:

- (a) Erection of part two storey part first floor side extension including garage conversion and conservatory to rear – 26 Zetland Hunt, Newton Aycliffe.
- (b) Erection of Granny Annex to side / front including 2No. Dormer Windows on North Roof Slope – 7 Rookwood Hunt, Newton Aycliffe.

(2) The Council received for information the undermentioned planning applications, prior notice of which had been circulated to all members of the Council. Durham County Council have been notified of the listed comments on each application:-

(a) Change of use to estate agency, kiosk adjacent to Aldi, Greenfield Way, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.

(b) Factory extension at Ness Furniture Lt., St. Cuthberts Way, Aycliffe Industrial Estate.
No objections.

(c) Felling of 1No. Whitebeam (T21) and Crown lift to 3.5m of 24 trees covered by TPO SBC=2005 on land to South East of Hamilton Close, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.

(d) Installation of front access ramp at 19 Walker Lane, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.

(e) Single storey rear extension at 34 Eade Close, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.

(f) Change of use of land to side and front of property from open space to private garden and erection of 1-2m high boundary wall at 1 St. Andrews Court, Newton Aycliffe.
The Town Council would object to this proposal for the following reasons:-

- *The proposed 2m high solid brick wall is not in character and keeping with the surrounding area and will have a detrimental impact on the street scene.*
- *The loss of the shrub bed as open space will have a large negative impact on the surrounding area.*

(g) Erection of part first floor part two storey front / side extension and single storey rear extension at 14 Wynyard Court, Newton Aycliffe.
It is recommended that considering that previous similar applications have already been approved the Town Council would, in this instance, have no objections to the proposal.

(h) Outline application for the erection of 7No. dwellings with some matters reserved – Bluebell Filling Station, Greenfield Way.
The Council have no objections to the proposal for outline planning permission.

(i) Erection and display of 2No. fascia signs to the North and East elevations and 2No. non-illuminated entrance signs at Compound Photonics Millennium Way, Heighington Lane Business Park, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.

- (j) Engineering operations associated with additional railway track – land North of Whiley Hill Farm and adjacent railway line, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.
- (k) Restrospective application for installation of air conditioning units at Bewick Crescent Surgery, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended:

- (i) That applications 1 (a) and (b) – no objections.
- (iii) That applications 2 (a) to (i) – information be received.

CHAIRMAN