

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 17th SEPTEMBER 2014** at **7.15 p.m.**

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

IN ATTENDANCE Mr. Martin Barnes (Senior Audit Manager, Mazars LLP)

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

65. **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

66. **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER**

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming, seconded by Councillor M. Dalton that Standing Order 1L be suspended owing to the new legislation which allowed the filming, photographing and audio recording of Council meetings.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that Standing Order No. 1L be suspended to allow for filming, photographing and audio recording of the meeting.

67. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors R. Bowman, K. Henderson, Mrs. A. Palmer, D. Summers and C. Wheeler.

68. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATION**

The following application for a dispensation had been received:-

Councillor E. Adam on Agenda Item No. 13 (Proposed Spend of Section 106 Agreement Monies) as he is a Member of Durham County Council.

It was moved by Councillor A.M. Chandran and seconded by Councillor R.S. Fleming that the dispensation be approved for this meeting.

69. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There had been no declarations of interest received.

70. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming, seconded by Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on the **16th July 2014** be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

71. **ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER – 2013/2014**

Mr. Martin Barnes from Mazars LLP was in attendance to present the Annual Audit Letter for 2013/2014.

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That Mr. Barnes be thanked for his attendance to present the Final Audit Letter.
- (ii) That the information in the Annual Audit Letter be received.
- (iii) That the Finance Team be congratulated on the excellent work carried out in obtaining an unqualified audit opinion.

72. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions raised by the Public.

73. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Clerk reminded members of the training courses which were available for them to attend which were organised through CDALC.

Also a visit to the N.E. Autism Centre had been arranged for the 23rd September and names were needed to be submitted prior to the visit.

The Mayor had submitted a list of events she had attended for the period 15th July to the 17th September 2014 for information. The Mayor thanks the Deputy Mayor for attending the Whitehouse Funeral Open Day at short notice.

The Mayor also thanked Councillors Mrs. S. Iveson and Mrs. V. Raw for helping with the Charity Stall and Aycliffe Show and also the Golf Day 'Tee Tent'.

RESOLVED – that the information provided by the Town Clerk and the Mayor be noted.

74. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

(a) **Environment Committee**

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

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the minutes of the Environment Committee held on the 3rd September 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. Hillary and

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the minutes of the Recreation Committee held on the 3rd September 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 W. Iveson and

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 10th September 2014 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

75. **GREENFIELD COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND SUNNYDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

To receive the public notice in respect of the alterations to Greenfield Community College and the closure of Sunnydale Community College as a separate school.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

76. **AMENDMENT TO COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS**

The Town Clerk submitted a report seeking the Council to make alterations to Standing Order 1L in line with the requirements of the amendment made to the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 by the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014.

The current Standing Order 1L states:-

“Photographing, recording, broadcasting or transmitting the proceedings of a meeting by any means is not permitted without the Council’s prior consent”.

It is proposed to amend Standing Order 1L to read:-

- (i) Persons **may not orally report or comment** about a meeting as it takes place if he (she) is present at the meeting of the Council or its Committees but otherwise may:
 - (a) Film, photograph or make an audio recording of a meeting.
 - (b) Use any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear proceedings at a meeting as it takes place or later.

- (c) Report or comment on the proceedings in writing during or after a meeting or orally report or comment after the meeting.
- (ii) Arrangements are subject to the Council Policy for Public Filming, Recording or otherwise reporting at Council and Committee meetings.

RESOLVED – that Standing Order 1L be amended, as above, to take into account the new Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014.

77. **NALC – FLY THE FLAG FOR THE COMMONWEALTH**

Information had been received from NALC in respect of raising the Commonwealth Flag for Commonwealth Day. It is proposed to have an annual event for the raising of the Commonwealth Flag and next year the date will be Monday, 9th March 2015 at 10 a.m.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That arrangements be made for the Commonwealth Flag to be raised on the allocated date each year at 10 a.m. and removed at 10 a.m. on the following day.
- (ii) That a suitable flag be purchased and it be noted that Monday, 9th March would be the date for raising the flag in 2015.
- (iii) That the raising of the flag be carried out by the Mayor along with a young person nominated from the community.

78. **PROPOSED SPEND OF SECTION 106 AGREEMENT MONIES**

Councillor E. Adam submitted a dispensation on this agenda item as he is a Member of Durham County Council and wished to speak on the item.

A copy of a memorandum had been received from Durham County Council Planning Development Manager seeking comments on the allocation of monies under Section 106 for the removal of a disused, unsightly and dilapidated concrete plinth on the green belt at Arncliffe Place and reinstate it to a grassed and seating area with a rubbish bin.

The application had been submitted by Councillor E. Adam in his capacity as a D.C.C. member.

RESOLVED – that the proposed spend of the 106 monies be agreed.

79. **LARGER LOCAL COUNCILS ELECTIONS 2014 - 2016**

Information had been submitted in respect of four places for direct election to the NALC Larger Local Councils' Committee for the 2014 – 2016 at the conference on the 3rd December 2014.

All Members of Larger Local Councils were welcome to nominate one of its members to compete for the election to one of the four places for that tenure.

RESOLVED – that no nomination be made from this Council and once nominations have been received this Council would be given a vote on those nominations.

80. **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT – PROPORTION OF BUSINESS RATES**

Information had been provided by NALC on the proposal under the Sustainable Communities Act to give Parish and Town Councils a share of the Business Rates. It was advised that the Government had rejected the proposal.

RESOLVED – that the information be noted and received.

81. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

Reports were given by representatives on the undermentioned Outside Bodies:-

(a) Youth Council

Councillor J.D. Clare gave an update.

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

No meetings.

(c) Aycliffe Village Community Association

No report.

(d) Woodham Village Community Association

No report.

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

No meetings.

(f) Larger Local Councils' Forum

No meetings.

(g) Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre

Councillor J.D. Clare gave a verbal report.

(h) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society

Councillor I Gray gave an update.

(i) Sedgefield Health Network

Vacancy on this Outside Body.

(j) Friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve

Councillor I Gray gave an update.

(k) Friends of West Park

Councillor E. Adam gave an update.

(l) Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway

Councillor J. Atkinson had now had information in respect of the meetings of this group.

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

CHAIRMAN.