

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011** at **7.15 p.m.**

**PRESENT**                    **Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton (Chairman) and**  
Councillors W.M. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, V. Crosby, W. Curtis, P. Ducker, R.S. Fleming, P. Gittins, G.C. Gray, G.R. Gray, I. Gray, Mrs. J. Gray, B. Haigh, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, K. Henderson, Mrs. I. Hewitson, T. Hogan, Mrs. K. Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson, Mrs. A. Palmer, Mrs. E.M. Payor and A. Warburton.

**OFFICIALS**                Mr. A. Bailey (Town Clerk)  
Mrs. C. Walton (Corporate & Policy Officer)  
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin. Officer)

**IN ATTENDANCE**    Mrs. J. Hartley (Chairperson, Sedgefield Health Network)

The Chairman welcomed Mrs. J. Hartley from Sedgefield Health Network.

57.    **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

58.    **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors T.R. Bowman and Mrs. V.M. Raw.

59.    **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**A declaration of personal interest was submitted by Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp on Agenda Item No. 14 (1) (Outside Bodies – The Cubby) as he is Chairman.**

60.    **HEALTH NETWORKS**

Mrs. J. Hartley from the Pioneering Care Partnership was in attendance to give a presentation on how Health and Wellbeing Partnerships were being developed.

Mrs. Hartley presented informative slides which set out statistics on health problems associated in our area and how a solution was being tackled. She gave information on the various organisations who were already members of the Network and asked if the Council would be prepared to have a representative on the Board. Details of what it was expected for the Health Networks to achieve were also set out.

Members asked a number of questions and Mrs. Hartley gave her responses and following a full discussion it was:

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That Mrs. Hartley be thanked for her attendance and presentation.
- (ii) That an item be placed under Outside Bodies on the next Council agenda to nominate a representative to serve on one of the Health Networks.

61. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming, seconded by Councillor V. Crosby and

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

62. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had submitted a list of appointments she had attended for the period 21<sup>st</sup> July to the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2011.

The Mayor specifically spoke on the Fun in the Parks and Sports Presentations she had attended. Also a very special night had been the Salute our Heroes at the Sage.

She thanked everyone who had helped to make the Golf Day a success. An amount of £625.45 had been raised.

The Mayor reminded the Council that a charity night has been booked for the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2011 and that tickets are now on sale.

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

63. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

64. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

(a) **Environment Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor V. Crosby, seconded by Councillor B. Hall and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2011 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 V. Crosby and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2011 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.D. Clare and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2011 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

65. **ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER**

A copy of the final version of the Annual Audit Letter 2010/11 had been circulated to members for information.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- (i) That the Annual Audit Letter be received.
- (ii) That it be noted that the Council were extremely pleased with the work carried out to achieve such a high standard rating from the Audit Commission.

66. **DRAFT NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK CONSULTATION**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report to provide Members with information regarding the National Planning Policy Framework consultation.

Discussion took place on the consultation document and its implications in regard to future planning.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the Council re-assess the document once the final rules and arrangements have been issued.
- (iii) That members make individual submissions on the draft policy by the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

67. **THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE BEACONS**

Information had been received asking Councils to light a beacon in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

A beacon was already in place at the School Aycliffe site and it was

**RESOLVED** – that the Council make arrangements to have the beacon lit on this occasion.

68. **CARERS ALLOWANCES**

Information had been circulated seeking the Council to support Councillor Cooke on the amendments proposed by Government concerning Carers Allowances.

**RESOLVED** – that this Council would support Councillor Cooke by asking our Member of Parliament to take his objection to the removal of the DWP Carers' Allowance to Government

69. **LICENCE TO UNDERTAKE WORKS ON DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS**

A report had been submitted by the Town Clerk to advise members of the progress in regard to the above proposal and consider a proposed licence.

An initial report had been considered by the Environment Committee in February 2011 which had outlined detailed proposals in regard to the Environment Work and Improvements to land under the ownership of Durham County Council.

A meeting had taken place with an Officer of D.C.C. and a draft licence agreement had been provided. Copies were circulated to Members for their consideration.

The Town Clerk pointed out a number of items which required amendments.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the Town Clerk enters into further negotiations with the County Council to approve a licence, taking into account the amendments.
- (iii) That a future report is prepared in connection with 'The Moor' for consideration.

70. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

**A declaration of personal interest was submitted by Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp on Item No. 14 (1) ('The Cubby') as he is Chairman, however, he would be remaining in the meeting during any discussion thereon.**

**(1) 'The Cubby'**

A request had been received from 'The Cubby' for the Council to nominate a representative to serve on their Committee.

- (2) Verbal reports were given by representatives on the undermentioned Outside Bodies:-
- (a) Youth Council  
Councillor V. Crosby informed members that the Youth Council were carrying out elections.
  - (b) County Durham Association of Local Councils  
The AGM would be held at the end of October.
  - (c) Citizens Advice Bureau  
The next meeting is the 22<sup>nd</sup> September.
  - (d) Woodham Village Community Association  
Councillor Mrs. J. Gray gave a report on the Open Day.
  - (e) Great Aycliffe and Middridge A.A.P. Local Council's Committee  
There had been no meetings.
  - (f) Durham Countryside Volunteers  
Councillor I. Gray stated that the next meeting would be 4<sup>th</sup> October with the Environment Officer.
  - (g) Larger Local Councils' Forum  
Councillor R.S. Fleming gave an update on the latest meeting which had considered double taxation and the Area Action Partnership workings.
  - (h) Lifelong Learning Committee  
There had been no meetings.
  - (i) Normandy Veterans' Association  
The next meeting would be on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> September.
  - (j) Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre  
Councillor Mrs. K. Hopper gave a detailed update on the last 2 meetings of the Youth Centre.
  - (k) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society  
Councillor I. Gray gave his report that the Society was running well and had been involved with local shows.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That it be agreed that a representative be nominated to serve on the Committee of 'The Cubby' and that nominations be considered at the next Council Meeting.
- (ii) That the reports from Outside Body representatives be received.

**CHAIRMAN.**