

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 23 APRIL 2014** at **7.15 p.m.**

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

IN ATTENDANCE Mr. M. Barnes (Engagement Senior Manager) Mazars LLP
Mr. G. Hale (Bisham Group)
Mr. B. Haldane (Aycliffe Shopping Centre)

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

153. **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

154. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors W.M. Blenkinsopp, R. Bowman, M.A. Dalton, Mrs. I. Hewitson, Mrs. A. Palmer, Mrs. V.M. Raw, D. Summers and T. Twissell.

155. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATION**

No dispensation requests had been received.

156. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest given.

157. **AUDIT STRATEGY MEMORANDUM**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. M. Barnes, Engagement Senior Manager from Mazars to the meeting to present the Audit Strategy Memorandum for the year ended 31st March 2014.

Mr. Barnes explained the purpose of the document which was to summarise our audit approach, highlight significant audit risks and areas of key judgements.

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions and following which it was

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the information be received.
- (ii) Mr. Barnes be thanked for his attendance and for explanation on the Audit Strategy Memorandum.

158. **NEWTON AYCLIFFE TOWN CENTRE**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Gary Hale and Mr. Bryan Haldane to the meeting to give members an update on the town centre development. A presentation was given which showed the differences made to the town currently and also information on the next planned phase.

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions and following which it was

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the information be received.
- (ii) That Mr. Hale and Mr. Haldane be thanked for their attendance and presentation.

159. **MINUTES**

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

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on the **12th March 2014** be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

160. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Clerk gave information on the following items:-

- (i) Play Strategy being carried out by Durham County Council in the Town.

The Town Clerk was proposing to complete the questionnaire in draft to be considered by the Recreation Committee and then forwarded to D.C.C.

- (ii) Information on this Council's Standing Orders which needed to be amended following new advice received from NALC. Amendments to this document would be available at the A.G.M. for adoption, however, any issues raised would be brought to a future meeting for detailed discussion and adoption if this was necessary.

The Mayor had submitted a list of events she had attended for the period 13th March to the 23rd April for information.

The Mayor outlined some of the poignant events, especially the Golden and Diamond Weddings together with the excellent turn-out of children at the 'Go Run for Fun' event.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the questionnaire on Play Strategy be completed in draft to be considered by the Recreation Committee and then forwarded to D.C.C.

- (ii) That the proposal of dealing with the amendments to the Council's Standing Orders be accepted.
- (iii) That the information provided by the Mayor be noted.

161. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions raised by the Public.

162. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

(a) **Environment Committee**

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

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 9th April 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 Mrs. M. Dalton and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the Recreation Committee held on the 9th April 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 Mrs. M. Dalton and

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 16th April 2014 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

163. **PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGES**

A letter had been received from D.C.C. in response to a request from this Authority for a Community Governance Review to be undertaken in respect of a boundary review in the area known as Eldon Whins. The matter had now been considered and D.C.C. had confirmed that they would proceed with a Community Governance Review upon receipt of a valid petition from this Authority. A minimum of 2088 signatures would need to be obtained from electors residing within the boundaries of Great Aycliffe.

The Town Clerk had also circulated information in respect of how the petition should be met.

Following a lengthy discussion it was proposed by Councillor E.M. Adam, seconded by Councillor D. Atkinson that a petition in response of a Community Governance Review on the proposed boundary changes in the area of Eldon Whins be accepted.

Voting took place which resulted as follows:-

17 for the proposal
2 against the proposal
1 Abstention – Councillor B. Hall

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That a petition be obtained in respect of a Community Governance Review being undertaken.
- (ii) That the Town Clerk draft a suitable petition for the signatures.
- (iii) That the petition details be published in the local news and on our website.

164. **UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE – SOUTH DURHAM**

Information had been received from the UTC Vice-Chancellor in respect of support for the establishment of a UTC in Newton Aycliffe. Previously a personal response from individuals had been requested. However support was now being sought via our M.P. for a Corporate response to be made.

RESOLVED – that a suitable Corporate response be forwarded to the University in support of the establishment of a University Technical College in Newton Aycliffe.

165. **HONORARY FREEMAN POLICY**

A proposal had been made by Councillor A.M. Chandran and seconded by Councillor E.M. Adam that the Council Policy on Honorary Freemen be amended.

A copy of the proposed amendments together a copy of the current Policy were submitted for members consideration.

RESOLVED – that it be agreed that the Honorary Freeman Policy be amended as per the proposal made by Councillor A.M. Chandran.

166. **CHANGES TO PARKING RESTRICTIONS**

Durham County Council had submitted correspondence and plans showing proposed changes to parking restrictions in Newton Aycliffe and seeking any comments.

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

167. **HEALTH AND SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT**

The Town Clerk had submitted a Health and Safety annual report which included a list of accidents and reportable accidents (RIDDOR) and any reports from the Health and Safety Executive together with a list of Health and Safety / Operational Training that had taken place during 2013/14. The report also advised the Council of the Competent Person who acts as the Council's Health and Safety Advisor.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

168. **MEMBER TRAINING UPDATE**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report and Appendix providing information on Members attendances at training events during the municipal year 2013/14.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

169. **FRIENDS OF STOCKTON AND DARLINGTON RAILWAY**

Information and a newsletter had been received from the Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway seeking support from this Council on their group.

RESOLVED – that the 'Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway Group' be added to the Outside Bodies list with a representative to serve on that Body being nominated at the Annual General Meeting.

170. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

Verbal 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)

Councillor R.S. Fleming gave information on the A.G.M.

(c) Citizens Advice Bureau

No representative.

(d) Woodham Village Community Association

Councillor N. Collinson gave an update.

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

No meeting.

(f) Larger Local Councils' Forum

The next meeting would be held in May 2014.

(g) Lifelong Learning Committee

No meeting.

(h) Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre

In the absence of Councillor Summers copies of the Secretary and Treasurer's reports had been made available for members information.

(i) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society

Councillor I Gray gave an update.

(j) Health and Wellbeing Partnership Network

No meeting.

(k) Friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve

Councillor I Gray gave an update.

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

CHAIRMAN.