

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 25th MAY 2011** at **7.15 p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillor V Crosby (Chairman)

Councillors S Bambridge, Mrs D Bowman, T R Bowman, Mrs B A Clare, J.D Clare, B Curtis, Mrs M Dalton, P Ducker, R S Fleming, G C Gray, I Gray, Mrs J Gray, B Haigh, Mrs S Haigh, B Hall, K Henderson, T Hogan, Mrs K Hopper, M Iveson, Mrs S J Iveson, W Iveson, Mrs A Palmer, Mrs E M Paylor, Mrs V M Raw and A Warburton.

OFFICIALS

Mr A Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mr S Cooper (Environment Officer)
Mrs M J Robinson (Leisure & Environment Assistant)
Miss J Simpson (Leisure Manager)
Mr D Thompson (Works Manager)
Mr N Whinham (Golf Professional)

3. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

5. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Mr T Hunter asked that the Committee take the view of the Youth Council into consideration when considering the proposed Wind farm. Mr Hunter advised that the Youth Council were in favour of the turbines in principle, but felt that more information was needed.

6. **MINUTES**

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

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the **6th April 2011** be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7. **ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

The Works Manager submitted a report for the seven weeks ending 15th May 2011. The report gave information regarding the maintenance of allotment sites.

A question was raised regarding progress on the proposed extension of St Oswald's Allotment Site.

The Town Clerk advised that numerous contacts had been made with Durham County Council planners to ascertain the progress of the planning application, but a decision has not been received to date.

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

8. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Works Manager and Environment Officer submitted a report which gave details of volunteer projects, events and community group activities which had taken place during April and May. The report also gave information regarding burials and vandalism.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the report be received

9. **PROPOSED WIND FARM**

The Town Clerk submitted a report which advised of a proposal to build a wind farm of up to 45 turbines near to Newton Aycliffe, Aycliffe Village, Bradbury, Chilton and Mordon.

It was proposed by Councillor R S Fleming and seconded by Councillor K Henderson and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) that the report be received.
- (ii) that the Deputy Leader, Councillor J D Clare, and Chairman of the Environment Committee, Councillor V Crosby, accompany Mr P Wilson, MP to meet with the appropriate Government Minister to ascertain the facts associated with the proposal.

10. **ENCROACHMENT – AYCLIFFE VILLAGE GREEN**

The Town Clerk submitted a report which advised members of an encroachment to Aycliffe Village Green (V64) and requested members to consider how they wished to proceed with the matter.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) that the report be received.
- (ii) that the Town Clerk be authorised to consult with a solicitor to seek to proceed with appropriate civil or criminal proceedings.

11. **GRANTS OF GRAVE SPACE**

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

West Cemetery

Grave No. K 34	Natalie Cairns
Grave No. K 99	Scott Maddison
Grave No. I 192	Peter Callaghan
Grave No. I 194	Anne Michelle Johnston

Stephenson Way Cemetery

Grave No. F 111	Kim Morrell
-----------------	-------------

CHAIRMAN.