

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 28th JANUARY 2015** 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, K. Henderson, J.P. Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson, P. Kjenstad and Mrs. V.M. Raw.

IN ATTENDANCE Mr. Andrew Garraway (Lightsource Renewable Energy Ltd)
Mr. Brendan Clarke (Lightsource Renewable Energy Ltd.)
Mr. Mark Noone (Lightsource Renewable Energy Ltd.)

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

120. **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

121. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors R. Bowman, Mrs. I. Hewitson, D. Summers and C. Wheeler.

122. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATION**

There were no applications for dispensations.

123. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There had been no declarations of interest received.

124. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions raised by the Public.

125. **SCHOOL AYCLIFFE SOLAR FARM**

The Mayor welcomed Mr. Garraway, Mr. Clarke and Mr. Noone to the meeting to give a presentation to members on the proposed Solar Farm in the School Aycliffe area.

The gentlemen set out in detail the plans of the proposal together with the impact on the site taking into account a Biodiversity Management Plan. A planning application has been submitted to Durham County Council.

At the conclusion of the presentation Members were given the opportunity to ask questions.

126. **MINUTES**

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

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on the 10th December 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
- (ii) That the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on the 15th January 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
- (iii) That the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on the 21st January 2015 be confirmed as a record record and signed by the Chairman subject to the following amendment:-

‘That the spelling of Councillor N. Collinson’s name be amended.’

127. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had submitted a list of events she had attended for the period 11th December 2014 to the 28th January 2015.

The Mayor reminded members that tickets were on sale for her forthcoming Civic Ball to be held on the 20th February 2015.

RESOLVED – that the information provided by the Mayor be noted.

128. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

(a) **Environment Committee**

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

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the minutes of the Environment Committee held on the 14th January 2015 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 14th January 2015 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 E.M. Adam and

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 21st January 2015 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

129. **ROYAL GARDEN PARTY**

Information had been received from CDALC seeking nominations from this Council for inclusion in a draw for the 4 places allocated for attendance at a Royal Garden Party on the 12th May 2015.

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming, seconded by Councillor Mrs. V. Raw that the Mayor and Consort be nominated to enter the draw for tickets to the Royal Garden Party in 2015.

RESOLVED – that the Mayor and Consort's names be forwarded to CDALC for entry into the draw for tickets to the Royal Garden Party on the 12th May 2015.

130. **GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON PARISH POLLS**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report to bring to Members attention the Government's Consultation in regard to the modernisation of Parish Polls.

Changes are needed as concerns that the genuine purpose for Parish Polls are being lost and polls are, on occasion, demanded on subjects that are not within the Parish and Town Council remit.

The Town Clerk was seeking members views with a view to responding to the questions posed in the Government's Consultation.

Following discussion it was proposed that the Council agree that the Parish Polls mechanism needed to be amended and that it be considered that a Poll could only be called by a larger number of people signing to have a Poll.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the Town Clerk complete the questionnaire in respect of Parish Polls needing to be modernised.
- (iii) That it be stated that this Council feels that a considerably larger number of electors be needed to sign to authorise a Parish Poll to take place.

131. **SCHOOL SPEED LIMITS**

Correspondence and a copy of the Durham County Council's Corporate Management Team's review of Current Policies on 20mph Zones and Limits had been circulated for members consideration.

Councillor P. Kjenstad spoke of his disappointment with the result of his original Notice of Motion and was seeking information as to how the casualty statistics had been formulated and over what period of time the survey had taken.

Following a lengthy discussion on the matter:-

It was proposed by Councillor Kjenstad that Aycliffe Town Council conduct their own investigations as to what problems each school in Great Aycliffe have with parking, speeding and casualties and submit their findings to Durham County Council.

There was no seconder for the proposal.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the information in the correspondence from Durham County Council be received.
- (ii) That Councillors contact Durham County Council individually with any concerns they may wish to make on the proposals.

132. **MISSION STATEMENT UPDATE**

The Corporate Management Team had submitted a report requesting Members to consider and approve an amendment to the Town Council's Mission Statement following the demise of the Quality Council status.

Following consideration it was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming, seconded by Councillor J. Atkinson that a review and update of the Mission Statement and Strategies be addressed by a Working Group of the Policy and Resources Committee.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the information be noted.
- (ii) That the Mission Statement and Council Strategies be subject to a full review by a Working Group of the Policy and Resources Committee.

133. **APPROVAL OF THE 2015/16 COUNCIL PRECEPT**

The Finance Manager had submitted a report seeking approval from the Council for the setting of the Council's 2015/16. Approval of a Precept of £1,348,550, which is an increase of 1.98% on the previous year's Precept, was being sought.

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

RESOLVED - as follows:-

- (i) That the 2015/16 Council Precept of £1,348,550 be approved.
- (ii) That the Mayor be authorised to sign the Precept Form.
- (iii) That the Precept Form be hand delivered to Durham County Council on the 29th January 2015.
- (iv) That the information provided in regard to the robustness of the budget estimates and adequacy of the Council's balances and reserves be noted.

134. **NEWTON AYCLIFFE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Information and a copy of the new proposed Constitution of the Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre were submitted for members consideration. This took into account the changes to a Charitable Incorporated organisation.

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

135. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

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

(a) Youth Council

Councillor J.D. Clare updated members on the Youth Council activities.

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

There had been no meetings, however, Councillor R. Fleming gave information on a video conference which had taken place.

(c) Aycliffe Village Community Association

No report.

(d) Woodham Village Community Association

Councillor K. Henderson gave an update from the last meeting.

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

No meetings.

(f) Larger Local Councils' Forum

The next meeting would be in approximately 3 weeks time.

(g) Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre

Councillor J.D. Clare gave a report on the Youth and Community Centre in his capacity as a County Councillor on that Committee.

(h) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society

Councillor I Gray updated members on the work of the Society.

(i) Sedgefield Health Network

Vacancy on this Outside Body.

(j) Friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve

Councillor I Gray reported on the progress of the Group.

(k) Friends of West Park

Councillor P. Kjenstad informed members that the A.G.M. would be taking place on Tuesday, 10th February in the Royal British Legion.

(l) Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway

Councillor J. Atkinson gave a report on the work of this Group.

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

CHAIRMAN.