

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 6<sup>th</sup> JULY 2011** at **7.15 p.m.**

**PRESENT**

**Councillor V Crosby (Chairman)**

Councillors S. Bambridge, J.D. Clare, W. 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, Mrs. K. Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson, Mrs. A. Palmer, Mrs. E.M. Paylor and A. Warburton.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp

**OFFICIALS**

Mr A Bailey (Town Clerk)  
Mr S Cooper (Environment Officer)  
Miss J Simpson (Leisure Manager)  
Mr D Thompson (Works Manager)  
Mr N Whinham (Golf Professional)  
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin Officer)

12. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs. B.A. Clare, T. Hogan and Mrs. V.M. Raw.

13. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

A personal declaration of interest was submitted by Councillor R.S. Fleming on agenda item No. 7 (St. Oswald's Allotment Extension) as he is an allotment holder on that site, however, he would be remaining in the meeting for the discussion and any voting thereon.

Declarations of personal interest were submitted by Councillors Mrs. J. Gray, Mrs. S.J. Iveson and Mrs. E.M. Paylor on agenda item No. 12 (Planning Application) as they are members of Durham County Council, however, they would be remaining in the meeting for the discussion and any voting thereon.

14. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

15. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R S Fleming, seconded by Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton and

**RESOLVED** - that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committees held on the **11<sup>th</sup> May and 25<sup>th</sup> June 2011** be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

16. **PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE**

It was proposed by Councillor M. Iveson, seconded by Councillor B. Hall and

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the Planning Sub-Committees held on the 25<sup>th</sup> May, 8<sup>th</sup> June and 22<sup>nd</sup> June be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to the following amendment:-

Planning Minutes – 25<sup>th</sup> May 2011

Appointment of Vice Chairman should read:

“It was proposed by Councillor B. Hall, seconded by Councillor K. Henderson that Councillor V. Crosby be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Planning Sub-Committee for the municipal year 2011/12.”

17. **ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

The Works Manager submitted a report for the six weeks ending 26<sup>th</sup> June 2011. The report gave information regarding the maintenance of allotment sites.

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

18. **ST. OSWALD' ALLOTMENT EXTENSION**

**A personal declaration of interest was submitted by Councillor R.S. Fleming on this item as he is an allotment holder on the St. Oswald's site, however, he was to remain in the meeting during the discussion.**

The Works Manager had submitted a report asking members to consider the extension to the allotment site at St. Oswald's to incorporate an additional 43 plots.

Planning approval had now been given subject to a number of amendments to the original application layout. Highways required an additional 20 parking spaces and the access road increased to 6 metres wide. Also a new legal vehicle access is required to be constructed onto Hylton Close. These additional requirements would increase the cost of the project.

Officers requested members to consider whether the project should go ahead. Quotations for the works had been obtained, however, due to the changes to the original planning application there was a shortfall in the budget for the extension of some £5,000.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended:-

- (i) That the report be received and the project proceed.
- (ii) That the additional costs be accepted and an item referred to the Policy and Resources Committee seeking additional budget provision of £5,000 to be taken from balances.

- (iii) That it be recommended to Policy and Resources that A.W.G. undertake the tarmac works at a cost of £12,840.
- (iv) That the entrance 'bell mouth' be ungraded to 'Highway Standard' as required by the planning permission.
- (v) That the fencing works be awarded to Renny & Co. at a cost of £8,047.88

19. **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 June 2011.

The report also gave information regarding burials and vandalism.

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

20. **STOPPING UP OF FOOTPATHS AT GREENWELL ROAD AND DALTON WAY**

Information had been circulated with regard to a draft order for a proposal to 'stop up' the footpath linking Greenwell Road and Dalton Way in order that building works could be carried out on the town centre development.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the information be received.
- (ii) That the Department of Transport be notified that this Council does not have any objections to the 'stopping up' only in order to enable the development of the town centre to be carried out.

21. **GRANTS OF GRAVE SPACE**

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

West Cemetery

Grave No. I 195

Sidney Terence Barber

22. **WIND FARM**

Councillor V. Crosby gave information with regard to the visit he and Councillor J.D. Clare had made to London with our M.P. to talk with a Government Minister about the proposed Wind Farm site.

E-on consultation period was to commence in August prior to them making their application in the Autumn of 2012.

Once the planning application has been received members will be able to have a full discussion and formulate an official response.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- (i) That the information be received.
- (ii) That the 2 members be thanked for their attendance in London to speak with the Minister.

23. **PLANNING APPLICATION**

**Declarations of personal interest had been submitted by Councillors Mrs. J. Gray, Mrs. S.J. Iveson and Mrs. E.M. Paylor as they are members on Durham County Council, however, they would be remaining in the meeting during the discussion thereon.**

Information had been submitted to members in respect of Phase 3 of the Town Centre Regeneration of Beveridge Way i.e.

- Demolition of the existing ramp
- Demolition of the ramp from the roof car park to the landing of the Beveridge Way ramp
- Demolition of the spiral stairs.
- Removal of canopies to the elevation of Beveridge Way facing southeast.
- Removal of the existing tress, containers and street furniture.
- Removing of existing concrete paving flags in programmed stages.

This will be followed by:

- Construction of new robust hard surface finishes to Beveridge Way, co-ordinating with tree planting, lighting and street furniture layout.
- Construction of new ramp from rooftop car park to the first floor level management suite and shops.
- Construction of new external spiral stair.
- Refurbishment works to the elevations of the retail blocks on Beveridge Way.
- Improved street lighting.
- New street furniture incorporating local artwork.

The Town Clerk pointed out that there would be no toilet or shower provision in the Town Centre as had been wrongly added to the application.

A full discussion took place on the Phase 3 development and it was:

**RESOLVED** – that the following points be forwarded to Durham County Council setting out members concerns with parts of the application:

- (i) That the ramp to be constructed from the rooftop car park to the first floor level be of a suitable nature for wheelchair use.
- (ii) That the proposed interactive play elements be of a sturdy nature to withstand use.

- (iii) That it be pointed out that the Town has already dedicated a memorial to the 'Angels' together with a memorial garden at St. Clare's Church.
- (iv) That a suggestion be made for a more suitable memorial being made to commemorate Lord Beveridge.
- (v) That the car parks at Greenwell Road were inadequate and needed to be upgraded.
- (vi) That specific attention be given to surface water drainage.

**CHAIRMAN.**