

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **13th JANUARY 2016** at 7.15 pm

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

OFFICIALS Mr A Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mr S Cooper (Works & Environment Manager)
Mrs M J Robinson (Leisure & Environment Assistant)
Mrs J Thexton (Leisure Manager)
Ms C Walton (Corporate and Policy Officer)
Miss J Welch (Golf Manager)

IN ATTENDANCE Councillor M Ashcroft

72. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors N Collinson and Mrs I Hewitson.

73. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

74. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor J.D. Clare declared an interest in agenda item No. 11 as a member of Durham County Council, however, he remained in the meeting during the discussions thereon.

75. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from members of the public.

76. **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 Committee held on the 25th November 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

77. **ALLOTMENTS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Members were asked to receive the notes of the Allotment Annual General Meeting held on 26th November 2015.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that the notes be received.

78. **ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted his report for the period ending 3rd January 2016. The report detailed inspections and general maintenance to the allotments. The Works and Environment Manager reported verbally that the police had been notified about a break-in at Byerley Park allotments which had taken place during the previous week.

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

79. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted his report for the period ending 3rd January 2016. The report updated members on the work being undertaken by volunteer groups, site management and events which had taken place as well as burials and vandalism.

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

80. **GRANTS OF GRAVE SPACE**

RESOLVED - that it be noted that the undermentioned grants of grave space have been issued:

West Cemetery

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Grave No. N 56 | Sylvia Shorey |
| Grave No. K 4 | George Richards |
| Grave No N112 | Carl Dufferwiel |

Stephenson Way

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Grave No. G 26a | Jillian Coates |
|-----------------|----------------|

81. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – UPDATE**

The Corporate and Policy Officer submitted a report which updated members on the progress regarding the Neighbourhood Plan.

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

82. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

(1) Members were requested to consider the undermentioned planning applications:-

- (a) Erection of industrial shed – Aycliffe Quarry, Aycliffe Village.
- (b) Outline application for the erection of a drive-through fast food restaurant with all matters excluding access, layout and scale reserved – Land adjacent to Central Avenue, Newton Aycliffe.

(2) Members were requested to receive for information the undermentioned planning applications, prior notice of which had been circulated to all Members of the Council. Durham County Council had been notified of the listed comments on each application:

- (a) Installation of process equipment in order to upgrade biogas to biomethane for the purpose of direct injection into the national gas grid – Emerald Biogas, Preston Road, Newton Aycliffe. *No objections.*
- (b) Erection of single storey rear extension – 10 Heighington Street, Aycliffe Village. *No objections.*
- (c) Advertisement consent for display of No.1 fascia sign, 1 No. ATM surround and No. 3 associated information and display sign – Nat West Bank, 11 Beveridge Way, Newton Aycliffe. *No objections.*
- (d) Erection of two storey side extension – 23 Hareson Road, Newton Aycliffe. *No objections.*
- (e) Demolition of No. 11 and 12 Brough Close, Aycliffe Young People’s Centre. *No objections.*
- (f) Erection of 3 No. double storey height extension, 3 No. associated silos, external cladding of existing building, new access and extension to existing car park – Schlegel Building Products, Coatham Avenue, Aycliffe Industrial Estate. *No objections.*
- (g) Change of use from Betting Shop (Sui Generis) to restaurant café (A3) and/or Hot Food Takeaway (A5) – William Hill, 35 Beveridge Way, Newton Aycliffe. *No objections.*
- (h) Access improvement works, formation of new access road, regrading land to facilitate development and erection of electrical substation and associated infrastructure, land adjacent Newton Park Services, Coatham Mundeville. *No objections.*
- (i) Loft conversion including installation of 2No. dormer windows on front roof slope and 1 No. dormer window and 2 No. roof lights to rear roof slope – 3 Karles Close, Newton Aycliffe. *No objections.*

(3) Members were requested to receive prior notification Planning Applications – (for information only). A planning application which is given a PN reference is considered ‘deemed consent’, similar to permitted development and the Town Council cannot object to a householder PN application. If the planning authority had any issues they would ask for further details and a full planning application.

- (a) Prior notification of the demolition of office and toilet block and gate house – Central Park Industrial Estate, Durham Way, Newton Aycliffe.
- (b) Prior notification of the installation alteration or replacement of other solar photovoltaics (PV) equipment on the roofs of non-domestic buildings up to a capacity of 1 megawatt – Unit 35A Northfield Way, Aycliffe Business Park.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that:

Application 1 (a) No objections.

Application 1 (b) The comments read out to the meeting by the Corporate and Policy Officer regarding traffic implications, contaminated land, safety and nuisance and reserved matters on the planning application was accepted and it was further recommended that the following points be added to the traffic implications prior to submission to Durham County Council be amended to include:

- i) The delivery vehicles need to reverse down the access road.
- ii) The access ramp to the upper storeys of the car park clearly shows many paint scrapes where cars have caught the concrete access plinths due to the tightness of the area.
- iii) The loss of car parking spaces in the lower floor to accommodate the restaurant and drive through may lead to more vehicles being damaged whilst trying to access the upper levels.

Applications 2 (a) to (i) - the applications be received.

Applications 3 (a) and (b) - the applications be received.

CHAIRMAN