

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 11th JANUARY 2017** at 7.15 pm

PRESENT **Councillor I Gray** (Chairman) and
Councillors E Adam, M Ashcroft, D G Atkinson, J Atkinson, P J Bergg, B Blenkinsopp, A M Chandran, Mrs B A Clare, J D Clare, Mrs M Dalton, M A Dalton, R S Fleming, G C Gray, Mrs S Haigh, B Hall, Mrs I Hewitson, JP Hillary, Mrs W P Hillary, M Iveson, W Iveson, Mrs V M Raw, K Robson 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)
Mr L Williams (Grounds Maintenance & Service Coordinator)

62. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors J Clark, N Collinson and Mrs S J Iveson.

63. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

64. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor J.D. Clare declared an interest in agenda item No. 13 (Planning Applications) as a member of Durham County Council, however, he would remain in the meeting during the discussions thereon.

65. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from the public.

66. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R S Fleming seconded by Councillor J D Hillary and

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 23rd November 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

67. **ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted his report for the period ending 1st January 2017. The report detailed inspections and general maintenance to the allotments.

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

68. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted his report for the period ending 1st January 2017. The report updated members on the work being undertaken by volunteer groups, site management and events which had taken place.

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

69. **CEMETERIES REPORT**

The Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator submitted his report for the seven weeks ended the 1st January 2017.

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

70. **PROPOSAL TO INSTALL FOOTWAY LIGHTING**

The Town Clerk submitted a report which gave information regarding a proposal by a housing developer to provide Footway lighting to Woodham Burn/Aycliffe Way.

RESOLVED - it be recommended that:

- i. The proposal to install footway lighting on Town Council land be not agreed.
- ii. The developers be advised that an alternative proposal would be the provision of a suitable sized play area, together with a dowry for future maintenance and repairs.

71. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE**

The Corporate and Policy Officer submitted a report which requested members to consider recommendations made by the independent examiner.

RESOLVED - it be recommended that:

- i. The report be received.
- ii. The changes and recommendations be made to the Plan.
- iii. Durham County Council be advised of the Council's decision and move to the referendum stage of the process.

72. **UNAUTHORISED TREE WORKS**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report regarding unauthorised tree works carried out on trees under Town Council ownership in School Aycliffe.

RESOLVED - it be recommended that:

- i. The report be received.
- ii. The Town Clerk approach the Council's solicitor with a view to commence legal action.
- iii. The possibility of Tree Preservation Orders being placed on trees at similar risk be looked into.

73. **BUS SHELTER SEATING UPDATE**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report which gave further information regarding proposed bus shelter seating.

RESOLVED - it be recommended that the report be received.

74. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

- (a) Installation of new image Ashland signage to replace existing Unit 4C Whinbank Park, Whinbank Road, Aycliffe Business Park.
- (b) 1 No. fascia sign, 1 No. projecting sign and 1 No. tile logo sign – Unit C3 Greenwell Road, Newton Aycliffe.
- (c) Factory extension – Gestamp Tallent Ltd., Skerne Road, Aycliffe Business Park.
- (d) Single storey extensions to side and rear and alterations to create dormer bungalow with accommodation in roof space, garaging and creation of separate access – 15A High Green, 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) Replacement 17.5m high telecommunications pole with 3No. replacement antennas – Telecommunications Mast – EE and H3G, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.
- (b) Change of use from public land to private garden – 138 Brockett Close, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.
- (c) Erection of single storey side/rear extension – 44 Bowes Road, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.
- (d) Insertion of window at first floor in side elevation (west) – 301 Osric Place, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.
- (e) Erection of single storey side extension – 1 Lord Neville Drive, School Aycliffe, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.

- (f) Erection of warehouse units to existing office accommodation – AEL Systems Ltd, Leaside, Aycliffe Business Park.
No objections.
- (g) Erection of single storey front extension linking house to garage – 37 Temple Way, Newton Aycliffe.
No objections.

RESOLVED - it be recommended that:

Application 1 (a) to (d) no objections

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

CHAIRMAN.