

Minutes of a Meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 10th SEPTEMBER 2014 at 7.15 p.m.**

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

OFFICERS Mr. A. Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mr. D. Austin (Finance Manager)
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin. Officer)

31. **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER**

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming, seconded by Councillor M. Iveson that Standing Order 1L be suspended owing to the new legislation which allowed the filming, photographing and audio recording of Council meetings.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that Standing Order No. 1L be suspended to allow for filming, photographing and audio recording of the meeting.

32. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

33. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

34. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

35. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from the public.

36. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor J.D. Clare, seconded by Councillor B. Hall and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 9th July 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

37. **ASSET MANAGEMENT MEMBER WORKING GROUP**

Notes and recommendations from the meeting of the Asset Management Member Working Group held on the 2nd September 2014 were considered.

It was proposed by Councillor M. Iveson, seconded by Councillor J. Atkinson and

RESOLVED – that the following recommendations from the Asset Management Member Working Group be accepted:-

- (i) That the proposal to replace the present blown air and hot water storage system at Moore Lane Park building be investigated, taking into account the intermittent/seasonal type of usage that the building currently has.
- (ii) That it be noted that the ramp to the sports hall is over budget provision due to unforeseen ground conditions and the additional requirements of the Building Inspector, in regard to foundations.
- (iii) That the wooden council car park fence be altered to provide a low level fence accommodating the present car park advisory signage.
- (iv) That it be noted that the Golf Complex improvements budget will be used to provide new signage to the Golf Shop, safety advisory signs to the course and external notice boards.
- (v) That it be noted that there may be a new item of expenditure required following investigation into a recording system for Council/Committee meetings.
- (vi) That the proposal to install a MUGA as part of a possible joint funding opportunity via Section 106 monies not be progressed at the present time. The budget allocated remains in place.

38. **ACCOUNTS CONTROL SHEETS**

Accounts control sheets for the period 4th July 2014 to the 29th August 2014 and the General Bank Accounts for July 2014 were submitted.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the accounts control sheets for the period 4th July 2014 to the 29th August 2014 and the General Bank Accounts for July 2014 be received.

39. **GRANTS / DONATIONS**

The Chairman pointed out that agenda item No. 13 – Newton Aycliffe Football Club Sponsorship would be moved from the agenda and added to the list of requests for donations.

The Town Clerk had submitted a report which gave the current donation budget for this financial year as £5,600.

The following requests had been received:

- (a) 'Neville Community Centre'
- (b) Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe
- (c) Kate Avery
- (d) Use of the Sports Hall

(e) Newton Aycliffe Football Club - Sponsorship

The Town Clerk had submitted information on marketing opportunities that the Football Club had available and the Football Club were asking members to consider an option they may wish to enter into.

Aycliffe Youth Council

The current Youth Council grant for 2014/15 was £1,452.

There had been no applications received for grants to date.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:-

(i) That the report be received.

(ii) Neville Community Centre

That a voucher for 2 meals at the Oakleaf Sports Complex be donated to Neville Community Centre.

(iii) Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe

That an amount of £100 be donated to the Rotary Club in aid of their Model Railway Exhibition in 2015.

(iv) Kate Avery

That a donation of £200 be given to Ms. Avery to help with her goal to compete in the Rio Olympics.

(v) Use of Sports Hall

That an amount of £50 be donated to the 'Get Kids Going' charity.

(vi) Newton Aycliffe Football Club – Sponsorship

That an amount of £125 be donated to the Football Club.

(vii) Youth Council

That the information in respect of the Youth Council be noted.

40. **PRE-SCHOOL LEARNING CENTRES**

The Town Clerk gave a verbal report to update members on the current position in respect of Woodham Burn Primary School.

A letter had been received from the School stating that their HR Department had been notified of the situation and have been asked to make enquiries prior to a further meeting taking place with this Council.

RESOLVED – that the information received.

41. **D.C.C. – HEIGHINGTON STATION LEVEL CROSSING**

Information, together with a copy of Network Rail's consultation letter, in respect of a draft Order to reduce the phasing of the amber lights at the above level crossing to bring them in line with modern standards.

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

42. **JOHN MEYNELL FUNERAL SERVICE**

The Town Clerk submitted a report and copy information from John Meynell Funeral Services on a proposal to make non-structural alterations to the layout of the rest room in Stephenson Way Cemetery.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the request for the alterations be agreed following confirmation being obtain from a Surveyor that the alterations will have no effect on the building structure.

43. **MULTI-USER ROUTE – AYCLIFFE TO SHILDON – REQUEST FOR ACCESS**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report to provide information in regard to a request by Durham County Council for an access agreement across Council land, to facilitate the exit point of the new multi-user footpath linking Shildon and Newton Aycliffe stations.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That consideration of this item be deferred pending further discussions with Durham County Council in regard to wayleaves / easements that are currently taking place.

44. **D.C.C. – (PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING AND LOADING AND PROHIBITION OF STOPPING, PERMIT HOLDERS ONLY) ORDER 2012 (Amendment No. 1) ORDER 2014**

Information had been circulated on the consultation for Parish Councils and a notice of that consultation was also attached. Comments need to be forwarded to the Highway Department by no later than the 12 September 2014.

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

45. **NALC – LARGER LOCAL COUNCIL'S CONFERENCE**

Information had been circulated on the NALC Larger Local Council Conference which will be held on Wednesday, 3rd December 2014 in London.

Members were asked to consider whether this Council should be represented at that Conference.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that this Council does not send representatives to this Conference.

46. **2015/16 BUDGET FRAMEWORK AND TIMETABLE**

The Finance Manager had submitted a report giving details of the proposed framework and timetable for the setting of the Council's Revenue and Capital Programme Budgets for 2015/16.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the Budget Framework and Timetable for the setting of the Council's 2015/16 Revenue and Capital Budgets be approved.
- (iii) That the Council's appreciation be recorded on the excellent standard of work carried out by Officers on the clarity of the reports submitted.

47. **THE OPENNESS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES REGULATIONS 2014**

The Town Clerk submitted a report to advise members of the impact of the above regulations and steps that need to be taken in order to comply with the new regulations.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the recommendations set out in the report be implemented.

48. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

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

RESOLVED – that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it was, in the opinion of the Council, advisable that the public and press be excluded from the meeting.

49. **GOLF MANAGER**

The Town Clerk submitted a report which gave information in regard to a request from the Golf Manager for the contractual retainer sum that is presently paid to her to be increased due to an increase in her workload.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. V.M. Raw and seconded by Councillor M. Iveson that an amount of £2,500 be added to the current retainer of the Golf Manager.

The Chairman asked for a vote on the proposal which resulted in:-

19 votes the proposal
1 vote against the proposal.

Councillor G.C. Gray wished it to be recorded in the minutes that he did not agree with the proposal and decision.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that an amount of £2,500 be added to the Golf Managers retainer.

CHAIRMAN.