

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe on **WEDNESDAY, 5th APRIL 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, J Clark, N Collinson, Mrs M Dalton, R S Fleming, G C Gray, Mrs S Haigh, B Hall, J P Hillary, Mrs W P Hillary, P Kjenstad, 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)
Mr L Williams (Grounds Maintenance & Service Coordinator)

87. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors M A Dalton, M Iveson, Mrs S J Iveson and W Iveson.

88. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

89. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor J D Clare declared an interest in agenda item No. 13 as a member of Durham County Council.

90. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from members of the public.

91. **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 **22nd February 2017** be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

92. **ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

The Grounds Maintenance Services Coordinator submitted a report for the period ending 26th March 2017. The report advised of rubbish removal and the number of people currently waiting for an allotment.

RESOLVED –it be recommended that the report be received.

93. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report which covered the period up to 26th March 2017. The report advised of tree work which had been carried out, chainsaw training undertaken by staff, litter picking initiatives and a spate of camp fires being set in Woodham Burn.

RESOLVED –it be recommended that the report be received.

94. **CEMETERIES REPORT**

The Grounds Maintenance Services Coordinator submitted a report which gave information regarding the grants of grave space which had been issued.

RESOLVED –it be recommended that the report be received.

95. **UPDATE – BOND FOR NEW ALLOTMENT TENANTS**

The Grounds Maintenance Services Coordinator submitted a report to give further information regarding the proposal to introduce a bond for new tenants.

RESOLVED –it be recommended that:

- a) The report be received.
- b) A bond be not introduced at this time.

96. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE**

The Corporate and Policy Officer submitted a report to advise of the current status of the Neighbourhood Plan. It was reported that the Plan had been amended to take into account recommendations made by the Independent Examiner and was now ready to go to referendum.

RESOLVED –it be recommended that the report be received.

97. **LORRY PARK**

The Works and Environment Manager provided a report (accompanied by two letters of complaint from residents) which advised of concerns raised about issues associated with the use of the Lorry Park owned by Great Aycliffe Town Council.

RESOLVED –it be recommended that:

- a) The report be received.
- b) Use of the Lorry Park continue to be monitored.
- c) Permanent signs be placed in appropriate areas.

98. **AYCLIFFE VILLAGE GREEN AREAS – PARKING AND DAMAGE**

The Town Clerk submitted a report to members regarding the damage to the Village Green perimeters and the parking issues in Aycliffe Village. The report requested members to decide upon action to be taken to reduce incursions or damage to the Greens.

RESOLVED –it be recommended that:

- a) The report be received.
- b) The situation is monitored and reviewed with possible future consideration given to the installation of physical barriers where appropriate and possible.
- c) The Town Clerk approach Durham County Council to ascertain the legal possibility of deregistering small parcels of Village Green in Aycliffe Village.

99. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Councillor J D Clare declared an interest in agenda item No. 13 as a member of Durham County Council and remained in the meeting during the discussions.

(1) The undermentioned planning applications were considered:-

- (a) Erection of single storey side extension and alterations to existing boundary wall and gate – 27 Bousfield Crescent, Newton Aycliffe.
- (b) Erection of single storey rear extension – 17 Rufus Green North, Newton Aycliffe.
- (c) Variation of approval planning ref. DM/14/02285/FPA relating to materials specification, external enclosures and evaluation treatments – 24A St. Andrews Close, Aycliffe Village.

(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) Erection of 1.25 – 1.5m boundary fence to front (retrospective) – 5 Macmillan Road, Newton Aycliffe. *No objections.*
- (b) Retention of car wash facility - Aycliffe Hand Car Wash – Greenfield Way, Newton Aycliffe. *No objections.*

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that:

Application 1 (a) to 1 (c) no objections

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

CHAIRMAN