

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe on **WEDNESDAY, 7th MARCH 2018** at **8.00 pm**.

PRESENT: **Councillor I Gray (Chairman)** and
Councillors Eddy Adam, M Ashcroft, Jim Atkinson, Derek G Atkinson, Kathy Beetham, P J Bergg, Bill Blenkinsopp, Mrs D Bowman, Arun M Chandran, B A Clare, J D Clare, J Clark, Mrs M Dalton, R S Fleming, George C Gray, Mrs S Haigh, B Hall, Dave Hardaker, K Henderson, Jed Hillary, M Iveson, Mrs S J Iveson, Mrs V M Raw and Paul Symons

OFFICIALS: Mr D Austin (Finance Manager)
Mr S Cooper (Works and Environment Manager)
Mrs M J Robinson (Leisure & Environment Assistant)
Mrs J Thexton (Leisure Manager)
Mr L Williams (Grounds Maintenance Service Coordinator)

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Sally Symons.

76. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Wendy Hillary, Kate Hopper and Ken Robson.

77. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

78. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Jed Hillary declared an interest in Agenda item 8 (Bee Keeping on Allotment Sites) as an allotment tenant.

79. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from members of the public.

80. **MINUTES**

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

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meetings of the Environment Committee held on the 17th January 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

81. **PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE**

It was proposed by Councillor Jed Hillary seconded by Councillor George C Gray and

RESOLVED –that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Sub-Committee held on the 24th January and 7th February 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

82. **ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

The Grounds Maintenance Services Coordinator submitted a report for the period ending 18th February 2018. The report advised of vacant plots and routine maintenance which had been undertaken.

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

83. **BEE KEEPING ON ALLOTMENT SITES**

Councillor Jed Hillary declared an interest in this Agenda item and left the meeting.

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report to advise members of a proposal to keep bees on allotment sites in Newton Aycliffe.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that

- i. The report be received.
- ii. Bee Keeping be permitted on certain plots, to be at the officer's discretion.

Councillor Jed Hillary returned to the meeting.

84. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report to update members with environment items including vandalism, tree works and tree and footpath inspections. The report also advised of events which had taken place.

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

85. **CEMETERIES REPORT**

The Grounds Maintenance Services Coordinator submitted a report to update Members with burials and grants of grave space.

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

86. **ELECTRO-FISHING OF AYCLIFFE NATURE PARK**

The Works and Environment Manager's report updated members regarding the electro-fishing which had been carried out in Aycliffe Nature Park to protect the habitat of the Great Crested Newts.

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

CHAIRMAN