

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **Wednesday 5th SEPTEMBER 2018** at 7.15 p.m.

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,
Mrs V M Raw, Ken Robson and Paul Symons.

OFFICIALS Mr A Bailey (Town Clerk)
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)

26. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, Kate Hopper, M Iveson, Mrs S J Iveson and Sally Symons.

27. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

28. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

29. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from members of the public.

30. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R S Fleming, seconded by Councillor B Hall and

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the **18th July 2018** be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

31. **PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the meetings of the Planning Sub-Committee held on the 11th and 17th July 2018 were considered:

It was proposed by Councillor R S Fleming, seconded by Councillor Arun M Chandran

RESOLVED – That it be recommended that the minutes be received.

32. **ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

The Grounds Maintenance Service Coordinator submitted a report for the period ending 26th August 2018 which advised of maintenance carried out.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that

- i. The report be received.
- ii. It be noted that St Oswald's Allotment Site Bee Keeping sites should read BK1, BK2 and BK3.

33. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report to update members on environment items including the Tommy Silhouettes, tree inspections, vandalism and environmental public events which had been held.

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

34. **CEMETERIES REPORT**

The Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator submitted a report giving information with regards to burials and grants of grave spaces which had been issued.

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

35. **GREAT CRESTED NEWT MITIGATION WORKS**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report to update members on the Crested Newt Mitigation works relating to the Livin development at Travellers Green. The report indicated that an additional pond be made to provide an alternative breeding area.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that:

- i. The report be received.
- ii. An additional pond within Aycliffe Nature Park be created.

36. **GARDEN COMPETITION**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report to provide an update to the annual Garden Competition (Environment Enhancement Awards). Photographs of nominated gardens were displayed and members were asked to vote for each category of the 2018 competition prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i. The report be received.
- ii. The results be announced at the meeting of Full Council on 19th September 2018.
- iii. All people nominated receive a certificate to be presented by the Mayor or Chairman of the Environment Committee.

- iv. A buffet be provided for the presentation of certificates.
- v. The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of Environment along with interested members visit nominated gardens on one day in future years to decide upon the winners of each category.

37. **AYCLIFFE VILLAGE GREEN FENCING**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report to consider a request to install birds' mouth fencing on part of the Village Green to prevent encroachment and erosion of the Village Green.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i. The report be received.
- ii. The installation be agreed.
- iii. The Works Section be used to install the fencing.

38. **MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL WOODLANDS**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report which asked members to consider the information from Durham County Council regarding its management plans for Woodland within its ownership.

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

39. **FLOWER BED REQUEST**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a letter from Great Aycliffe Parish requesting assistance in providing and planting up and maintaining the beds near the entrance at St Andrew's Church.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i. The report be received.
- ii. Plants be provided, planted and maintained in the bed near to the entrance road of St Andrew's Church.

CHAIRMAN.