

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 19th SEPTEMBER 2018** at **7.15 p.m.**

PRESENT **Councillor J. Clark (Chairman)** and
Councillors M. Ashcroft, Derek G. Atkinson, Jim Atkinson, Kathy Beetham, Bill Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, George C. Gray, I. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, Mrs. I. Hewitson, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, Kate Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs V. Raw, Ken Robson, Paul Symons and Sally Symons.

OFFICERS Mr A Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mr D. Austin (Finance Manager)
Miss A. Donald (Town Clerk's PA)

51. **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

52. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Eddy Adam, P.J. Bergg and Dave Hardaker,

53. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATION**

No dispensation requests had been received.

54. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest had been submitted.

55. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

A member of the public had submitted two questions but was not present at the meeting to ask these.

56. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming and seconded by Councillor M. Iveson and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Council, held on the 25th July 2018, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

57. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor submitted a list of appointments which he had attended for the period 13th June to 18th September 2018. He mentioned that Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group would be running a charity shop for one week from Saturday 22nd September.

The Mayor also thanked Town Council works department staff for their rapid response in dealing with fallen trees and debris as a result of that day's storm.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

58. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

(a) **Environment Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor M. Ashcroft, seconded by Councillor Bill Blenkinsopp, and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 5th September 2018 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(b) **Recreation Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor Jed Hillary, seconded by Councillor B. Hall, and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the Recreation Committee held on the 5th September 2018 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(c) **Policy and Resources Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming, seconded by Councillor M. Ashcroft and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 12th September 2018 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

59. **NORTH AGNEW WOODLAND**

Members considered a letter received from Hall Construction regarding the possible transfer of North Agnew Plantation to the Town Council.

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the letter be received and contents noted.

60. **2017/18 EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT**

The Finance Manager submitted a report setting out the external auditor's report and certificate in respect of the Council's Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the 2017/18 financial year for Members' approval.

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the external auditor's Audit Completion letter, External Audit Report and Certificate in respect of the 2017/18 Annual Governance and Accountability Return by received.
- (ii) That the unqualified external audit opinion that '*the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislative and regulatory requirements have not been met*' be noted.

61. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

Verbal reports were given by representatives on the undermentioned Outside Bodies:-

- (a) Youth Council
No meeting.
- (b) County Durham Association of Local Councils
The next meeting would be held in October 2018.
- (c) Aycliffe Village Community Association
No report.
- (d) Woodham Village Community Association
Councillor B.A. Clare gave an update report.
- (e) Great Aycliffe and Middridge Local Council's Committee
Meeting in the process of being organised.
- (f) Larger Local Councils' Forum
No meeting.
- (g) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society
Councillor I. Gray gave an update report.
- (h) Friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve
Councillor I. Gray gave an update report.
- (i) Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway
Councillor J.D. Clare gave an update report.

RESOLVED – that the information given from the representatives serving on the Outside Bodies be received.

CHAIRMAN.