

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 30<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2019** at **7.15 p.m.**

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

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

86.    **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

87.    **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Derek G. Atkinson, Kathy Beetham, J. Clark and Sally Symons.

88.    **MEMBERS' DISPENSATION**

No dispensation requests had been received.

89.    **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**Non-pecuniary declarations were submitted from Councillors Eddy Adam, Jim Atkinson, J.D. Clare, Kate Hopper and Mrs. S.J. Iveson on Agenda Item No. 11 (Land Transfer – Former Elmfield School Site). They would be remaining in the meeting during the discussion thereon.**

90.    **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from the public.

91.    **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 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

92. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor submitted a list of appointments which he had attended for the period 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018 to the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

The Town Clerk announced that copies of the County Durham Plan – Pre-Submission Draft 2019 had been received and were available for members to view in the Council Chamber. Response forms were also available which needed to be returned by the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

**RESOLVED** – that the information be received.

93. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

(a) **Environment Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor Dave Hardaker, seconded by Councillor M. Ashcroft and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019 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 Bill Blenkinsopp and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the Recreation Committee held on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019 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. Iveson and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

94. **NOTICE OF MOTION**

The following Notice of Motion had been submitted by Councillor Jed Hillary and was seconded by Councillor Bill Blenkinsopp.

Great Aycliffe Town Council recognises the significant contribution to the community and the milestone achievements of Newtonians. The recent passing of Syd Howarth MBE was marked by the large number of written tributes for a true man of the people. This and the community turnout at his funeral, ably demonstrated that he selflessly served the community of Great Aycliffe in his many roles. The Durham County Council (DCC) Street Naming Policy sets out the conditions for proposing streets to be named after people and allows individuals and bodies to put forward such suggestions and recommendations:-

*'It is proposed that Great Aycliffe Town Council makes a recommendation to DCC to have a street named after the late Syd Howarth, in the next phase of residential development within the Parish. It is further proposed that the Planning Sub-Committee look at other late Newtonians who have served their community or represented the Parish, for similar recognition.'*

Discussions took place on the wording of the Motion as it was felt that the street name for the late Syd Howarth should be to a major phase of development in the Parish.

It was also felt that the second part of the proposal to look at other late Newtonians for similar recognition should be brought to a meeting of the full Council and not the Planning Sub-Committee.

Councillor Jed Hillary made the amendments to his Notice of Motion to read:-

*'It is proposed that Great Aycliffe Town Council makes a recommendation to DCC to have a street named after the late Syd Howarth, in the next major phase of residential development within the Parish. It is further proposed that the Full Council look at other late Newtonians who have served their community or represented the Parish, for similar recognition.'*

A vote was requested on the amended Notice of Motion and it was unanimously received.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the amended Notice of Motion was unanimously agreed.
- (ii) That a recommendation be made to Durham County Council for a street to be named after the late Syd Howarth in the next major phase of residential development within the Parish.
- (iii) That a future meeting of the Council look at other late Newtonians who have served their community or represented the Parish for similar recognition.

95. **COBBLERS HALL PLANTATION IMPROVEMENTS**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report to update members with regards to the progress on the proposed improvements to the woodland plantation at Cobbler's Hall and in reference to a Planning Section 106 Agreement with the developer of the adjacent housing site.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the requirement of entering into a Section 106 Agreement with the developer be noted.

96. **LAND TRANSFER – FORMER ELMFIELD SCHOOL SITE**

**Non-pecuniary declarations were submitted by Councillors Eddy Adam, Jim Atkinson, J.D. Clare, Kate Hopper and Mrs. S.J. Iveson on Agenda Item No. 11 (Land Transfer – Former Elmfield School Site). They remained in the meeting during the discussion thereon.**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report to update members in regard to the progress of the possible use of the former school site. A detailed report setting out progress on negotiations for the transfer or lease of part of the site had been discussed at the Council meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

The Council had intimated, at a meeting with interest parties, that they would be interested in either a land transfer or long-term lease. It could not be confirmed at that meeting and Heads of Terms were requested to be produced by Durham County Council for consideration by this Council.

Members discussed the report in detail and stated that until the actual Heads of Terms had been received no actions could be discussed.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That once Heads of Terms had been received a further report be considered by Council.
- (iii) That Councillor Ken Robson be invited to attend future meetings which are held on the use of the land at the former Elmfield School site.

97. **WAYLEAVES – VARIOUS LOCATIONS**

The Town Clerk submitted a report to advise members of the future requirement to enter into wayleave agreements or easements to enable new electric cables to be installed by Northern Powergrid both within Newton Aycliffe and onwards.

Officers are awaiting further contact with Northern Powergrid to discuss cable routes, wayleaves, easements, methods of installation. Any financial costs associated with the wayleaves or easements would be funded by Northern Powergrid.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That it be noted that wayleave agreements or easements would need to be entered into in the future.

98. **NEW PREMISES LICENCE APPLICATION**

An application had been received via Durham County Council from Siesta Coffee for a new premises licence for the Oak Centre on Newton Aycliffe Business Park.

The Council was asked to submit any comments on the application.

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

99. **APPROVAL OF THE 2019/20 COUNCIL PRECEPT**

The Finance Manager submitted a report to seek approval for the setting of the Council's 2019/20 Precept thereby allowing the submission of the Precept Request Form to be delivered to Durham County Council for the setting of the Town Council proportion of the Council Tax.

Members considered the report and voted unanimously to the setting of the Precept at £1,661,050.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the 2019/20 Council Precept at £1,661,050 be approved.
- (ii) That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Precept Form.
- (iii) That the Precept Form be delivered to Durham County Council on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019.
- (iv) That the information provided in regard to the robustness of the budget estimates and adequacy of the Council's balances and reserves be noted.

100. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

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

- (a) Youth Council  
In the absence of the two representative at the meeting Councillor Jim Atkinson gave an update prepared by the Corporate and Policy Officer.
- (b) County Durham Association of Local Councils (AGM only)  
No meeting.
- (c) Aycliffe Village Community Association  
Councillor Bill Blenkinsopp gave an update on the Association.
- (d) Woodham Village Community Association  
Councillor B.A. Clare gave the update.
- (e) Great Aycliffe and Middridge Local Council's Committee  
No meeting.
- (f) Larger Local Councils' Forum  
No meeting.
- (g) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society  
Councillor I. Gray gave the update.
- (h) Friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve  
Councillor I. Gray gave the update.
- (i) Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway  
Councillor Dave Hardaker had been unable to attend the meeting but gave a brief update.

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

**CHAIRMAN.**