

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 27th FEBRUARY 2019 at 7.15 p.m.**

PRESENT Councillor I Gray (Chairman) and
Councillors Eddy Adam, M Ashcroft, Jim Atkinson,
Derek G Atkinson, Kathy Beetham, 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, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, M Iveson,
Mrs S J Iveson, 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)

68. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors P J Bergg, Kate Hopper and Sally Symons.

69. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

70. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Eddy Adam declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 10 on the Agenda as a member of the Rotary Club.

71. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from members of the public.

72. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R S Fleming, seconded by Councillor Eddy Adam and

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the **16th January 2019** be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

73. **PLANNING SUB COMMITTEE**

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

RESOLVED - it be recommended that:

- i) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Sub-Committee held on the **30th January 2019 and 14th February 2019** be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

74. **ALLOTMENT REPORT**

The Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator submitted an Allotments report for the period ending 17th February 2019. The report advised that two tenants at Clarence Chare allotments and five tenants at St Oswald's allotments had been issued with notices determining their tenancy.

The Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator informed members that Darlington Bee Keepers' Association had enquired if it would be possible to rent a piece of land at St Oswald's Allotments for the purpose of training bee keepers who had undergone a preliminary bee keeping course with them.

RESOLVED –it be recommended that

- i) The report be received.
- ii) The Officer be authorised to continue to liaise with Darlington Bee Keepers' Association regarding its request to hire land for the purpose of training bee keepers.
- iii) Trees overhanging the bee keeping plots at St Oswald's be trimmed back.

75. **CEMETERIES REPORT**

The Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator submitted a report for the period ending 17th February 2019 giving information with regards to burials and grants of grave spaces which had been issued.

RESOLVED - it be recommended that the report be received.

76. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report for the period ending 17th February 2019 to update members on environment items.

RESOLVED - it be recommended that the report be received.

77. **WEST CEMETERY MEMORIAL**

Members were asked to consider the erection of a 6' monolith memorial to the late Syd Howarth, being erected in the Memorial Garden by the Howarth family.

RESOLVED –it be recommended that:

- i) The letter be received.
- ii) Permission to erect the memorial be approved subject to the Howarth family agreeing to pay for the memorial and associated costs and ongoing maintenance to the memorial in perpetuity.
- iii) Installation method and memorial materials to be approved by Council Officers prior to installation.

78. **STEPHENSON WAY CEMETERY – HEDGEROW UPDATE**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report which updated members regarding comments and concerns expressed regarding the removal of the large Leylandii hedge at Stephenson Way Cemetery.

RESOLVED –it be recommended that:

- i) The report be received.
- ii) The officer be thanked for the way in which the complaints and comments on social media had been dealt with.

CHAIRMAN.