

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 13th MARCH, 2019** at **7.15 p.m.**

PRESENT **Councillor J. Clark (Chairman)** and
Councillors M. Ashcroft, Derek A. Atkinson, Jim Atkinson, Kathy Beetham, P.J. Bergg, Bill Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, Mrs. M. Dalton, 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 and Paul Symons.

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

101. **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

102. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Eddy Adam, R.S. Fleming, Dave Hardaker, Ken Robson and Sally Symons.

103. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATION**

No dispensation requests had been received.

104. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

105. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from the public.

106. **MINUTES**

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

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Council, held on the 30th January 2019, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

107. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor submitted a list of appointments which he had attended for the period 30th January to the 12th March 2019.

The Mayor gave an update on the recent Civic Dinner which had raised £559 for his nominated charity the Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group. He went on to thank fellow Councillors who had supported the event with their attendance or donated prizes for the fund raising. There had been an excellent response from local business who had donated some amazing prizes to raffle.

The Mayor also mentioned the excellent Model Railway Exhibition which is organised annually by the Rotary Club.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

108. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

(a) **Environment Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor I. Gray, seconded by Councillor M. Ashcroft and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 27th February 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 27th February 2019 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(c) **Policy and Resources Committee**

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

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 6th March 2019 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

109. **REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES**

Information had been received and circulated for members to consider the current venues of polling stations with a view to making any comments or suggestions for possible changes and alternative venues.

It was proposed by Councillor Jed Hillary that this Council respond to Durham County Council asking that they remove the following two primary schools from the list of Polling Stations in Newton Aycliffe to avoid disruption to the schools:-

Station No. SE 31 – Sugar Hill Infants School, Sheraton Way
Station No. SE 32 – Vane Road Primary School, Vane Road

RESOLVED – that this Council responds to Durham County Council with a view to the following two primary schools being removed from the list of Polling Stations in Newton Aycliffe to avoid disruption to the schools.

Station No. SE 31 – Sugar Hill Infants School, Sheraton Way
Station No. SE 32 – Vane Road Primary School, Vane Road

110. **BUSINESS RISKS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2019/2020**

The Corporate Management Team had submitted a report setting out a full list of the current corporate business risks for the Town Council.

Members were being asked to consider and approve the Business Risk Register for 2019/2020.

RESOLVED – that the Business Risk Register for 2019/2020 be approved.

111. **ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE COUNCIL'S SYSTEM OF INTERNAL CONTROL**

The Corporate Management Team had submitted a report for consideration and approval of the annual review of the effectiveness of the Council's system of internal control for the 2018/19 financial year.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the annual review of the effectiveness of the Council's system of internal control in respect of the 2018/19 financial year be approved.
- (ii) That the review be taken into account in providing the assurance that the Council requires in order to approve the 2018/19 Annual Governance Statement, as set out in Section 1 of the 2018/19 Annual Return later in the year.

112. **GAMP – COMMUNITY SAFETY TASK GROUP REPRESENTATIVE**

A request had been received from Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership as to whether this Authority wished to appoint a representative to serve on the Community Safety Task Group.

RESOLVED – that the appointment of a representative on the Community Safety Task Group be re-submitted to the next Council Meeting to be held on the 24th April for further consideration.

113. **NOTICE OF MOTION**

The following Notice of Motion had been submitted by Councillor Arun M. Chandran and was seconded by Councillor George C. Gray:-

Customer Panel

1. That the Customer Panel should meet every three months in a venue Closer to residents.
2. That we advertise for new members.
3. That all Councillors be notified and invited to attend the meetings and it be open to the public.
4. That it be re-un as an Open Forum for all residents enabling them to ask any questions.

Councillor Arun M. Chandran addressed the meeting on his Notice of Motion.

Councillors were given the opportunity to give their views and the Town Clerk gave an update of how the Customer Panel was organised and new arrangements as agreed at the recent meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee. That it would be part of the discussions under the Service Delivery Plan which will be an item on the April Policy and Resources Committee agenda.

Councillor M. Iveson proposed that any decision on the Customer Panel should be left until the Service Delivery Plan is discussed in April.

Councillor Arun M. Chandran agreed with this proposal and withdrew his Notice of Motion.

RESOLVED – That the Notice of Motion be withdrawn pending consideration of the Service Delivery Plan at the Policy and Resources Meeting in April.

114. **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 (AGM only)
No meeting.
- (c) Aycliffe Village Community Association
No meeting – AGM to be held on Friday.
- (d) Woodham Village Community Association
No report.

- (e) Great Aycliffe and Middridge Local Council's Committee
No meeting.
- (f) Larger Local Councils' Forum
Councillor M. Iveson and the Town Clerk had attended the meeting and gave an update.
- (g) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society
Councillor I. Gray gave an update.
- (h) Friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve
Councillor I. Gray gave an update.
- (i) Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway
No report.

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

CHAIRMAN.