

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 27th NOVEMBER 2019

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

PRESENT

Councillor M. Ashcroft, (Chairman) and:
Councillors Eddy Adam, Derek G. Atkinson, Bill Blenkinsopp, 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, Dave Hardaker, Jed Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs S.J. Iveson, Ken Robson and Paul Symons

OFFICERS

Mr D. Austin (Finance Manager)
Mr S. Cooper (Works and Environment Manager)
Miss A. Donald (Town Clerk's PA)
Mr L. Williams (Grounds Maintenance Service Coordinator)

Before the meeting commenced, the Chairman requested that a few moments of silence be observed in memory of the late Mr Jackie Piggott, a former Great Aycliffe Town Councillor, who had recently passed away.

47. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Jim Atkinson, Kathy Beetham, P.J. Bergg, Mrs D. Bowman, J. Clark, Wendy Hillary, Kate Hopper, Mrs V.M. Raw and Sally Symons.

48. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

No applications for dispensations had been received.

49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

50. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

51. MINUTES

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

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee, held on the 27th November 2019, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

52. PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Councillor Dave Hardaker, seconded by Councillor B. Hall, and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Sub-Committee, held on the 29th October 2019, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

53. ALLOTMENT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator submitted the notes of the Allotment Annual General Meeting, held on Thursday 14th November 2019, for members information.

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

54. ENVIRONMENT REPORT

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report to update members on environment maintenance and events for the six weeks ended the 17th November 2019.

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

55. CEMETERIES REPORT

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

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

56. SOUTH AGNEW PLANTATION WOODLAND MAINTENANCE

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report requesting members to consider the preferred option for clearance of parts of South Agnew Plantation.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that

- i) The report be received.
- ii) An arboricultural contractor be engaged to clear scrub and remove any small remaining stems.

57. TOWN CENTRE BUS SHELTER LIGHTING – STEPHENSON WAY

Cllr Eddy Adam declared a registerable interest in this item as a member of Durham County Council.

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report informing members of costs for the repair of bus shelter lighting on Stephenson Way. After a discussion regarding lighting and seating in and next to the bus shelters, it was

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that

- i) The report be received.
- ii) Durham County Council be requested to consider paying a contribution towards the cost of the repair of the bus shelter lighting.
- iii) Permission be sought from Durham County Council to install a bench seat to the left side of the shelter on the opposite side of the road from the Leisure Centre
- iv) Bench seating be installed in both shelters from existing stock.

58. COBBLERS HALL PLANTATION – PROTECTED SPECIES MITIGATION

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report informing Members of proposals for improvements to habitats to benefit wildlife and access for the public at Cobblers Hall Plantation.

RESOLVED – that the report be received and information noted.

CHAIRMAN.