

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **Wednesday 29th MAY 2019** at **7.15 p.m.**

PRESENT Councillor M Ashcroft, (Chairman) and
Councillors Jim Atkinson, Derek G Atkinson, Kathy Beetham,
Bill Blenkinsopp, Mrs D Bowman, Arun M Chandran, J Clark,
Mrs M Dalton, R S Fleming, I Gray, 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)

7. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Eddy Adam, P J Bergg, B A Clare, J D Clare and Sally Symons.

8. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

9. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

10. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from members of the public.

11. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R S Fleming seconded by Councillor Jed Hillary and

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the **10th April 2019** be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

12. **ALLOTMENT REPORT**

The Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator submitted an Allotments' Inspection Report for the period ending 19th May 2019.

The Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator also reported verbally the frequency of grass cutting which had been omitted from the report:

Aycliffe Village	11 th April	2 nd May	14 th May
Byerley Park	11 th April	23 rd April	16 th May
Clarence Chare	12 th April	17 th May	
Finchale Road	12 th April	17 th May	
St Oswald's	12 th April	3 rd May	

Additionally, it was reported verbally that 28 maintenance letters had been sent out to allotment holders. The Darlington Bee Keepers' Association had installed hives on their plot at St Oswald's Allotments and held a bee keeping training course in May. The Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator advised that there had been a lot of interest regarding bee keeping from allotment tenants on the site and due to the interest currently being shown, they are hoping to schedule a further training course for the Autumn.

RESOLVED –it be recommended that the report be received.

13. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report for the period ending 31st March 2019 to update members on environment items including the completion of 3 tarmac paths in Woodham Burn, damage to a section of fencing along Woodham Burn, beneath Burn Lane underpass. Body Cam footage of youths who admitted using ball bearings in catapults for target practice around the Simpasture Line and Aycliffe Nature Park has been passed to police for investigation.

The report also advised of community events which had been organised for litter picking and pond dipping. The Environment Officer had met with several members of the public who are keen to reform the Aycliffe Nature Park Association.

RESOLVED - it be recommended that the report be received

14. **CEMETERIES REPORT**

The Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator submitted a report for the period ending 19th May 2019 giving information regarding burials and grants of grave spaces which had been issued.

RESOLVED - it be recommended that the report be received.

CHAIRMAN.