

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 30 OCTOBER 2019 – 7.15 p.m.

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on Wednesday, 30 October 2019 at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton (Chairman) and
Councillors M. Ashcroft, Derek G. Atkinson, Jim Atkinson, Kathy Beetham, P.J. Bergg, Bill Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, R.S. Fleming, George C. Gray, I. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, Dave Hardaker, Jed Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs V. Raw, Ken Robson and Sally Symons.

OFFICERS

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. P. Bannister (Man Health)
Mr. P. Emerson (Traffic Management Officer – Cleveland & Durham Specialist Operations Unit)

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS FOR COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT

The Chairman pointed out that following the meeting presentations would take place to the winners of the categories for the Community Enhancement Competition. A buffet would be available at the conclusion of the presentation.

66. NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

67. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Eddy Adam, B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, J. Clark, Wendy Hillary, Kate Hopper and Paul Symons.

68. MEMBERS' DISPENSATION

No dispensation requests had been received.

69. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There had been no Declarations of Interest submitted.

70. MAN HEALTH AWARENESS PRESENTATION

Mr. Paul Bannister attended the meeting to give a presentation on Man Health Awareness which then allowed Members to ask questions.

RESOLVED – that Mr. Bannister be thanked for his attendance and informative presentation and information.

71. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A representative of the Aycliffe Village Residents Association was in attendance to ask the Traffic Management Officer questions in respect of concerns for road safety and traffic flow through Aycliffe Village. This had previously been referred to Durham County Council Traffic Assets and the Traffic Management Unit of the Police following a meeting of the Council held on the 24th July 2019.

Mr. P. Emerson (Traffic Management Officer) had attended the meeting to address the issues on behalf of the Police and answered numerous questions from both Members and the Aycliffe Village Residents Association.

Following a lengthy discussion Mr. Emerson would meet with representatives of the Aycliffe Village Residents Association to discuss the matters needing to be addressed on road safety through Aycliffe Village prior to meeting with Durham County Council.

Mr. Emerson was thanked for his attendance this evening.

73. MINUTES

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

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 18th September 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

74. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor had submitted a list of appointments she had attended for the period 18th September to the 29th October 2019.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

75. COMMITTEE MINUTES

(a) Environment Committee

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

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 16th October 2019 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(b) Recreation Committee

It was proposed by Councillor B Hall, seconded by Councillor Jed Hillary and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the Recreation Committee held on the 16th October 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 23rd October 2019 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

76. NALC – LARGER COUNCILS COMMITTEE - VOTING

Information had been circulated in connection with candidates to serve on the NALC Larger Councils Committee for 2020/21.

The Members were being asked to chose 4 Councillors and 2 Clerks.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That this Council did not wish to make any nominations.

77. EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT ON THE COUNCIL'S 2018/19 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN

The Finance Manager had submitted a report setting out, for approval, the external Auditor's report and certificate in respect of the Council's Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the 2018/19 financial year.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the external auditor's Audit Completion letter, External Audit Report and Certificate in respect of the 2018/19 Annual Governance and Accountability Return be received.
- (ii) That the arrangements made by the Finance Manager to publish the public notice of the completion of the audit and the audit Annual Governance and Accountability Return on the Council website be noted.
- (iii) That the unqualified external audit opinion highlighting that *'the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislative and regulatory requirements have not been met'* be noted.

78. CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT

The Town Clerk submitted a report to advise the Council that a Code of Conduct complaint had been made against Members of the Council and is pending an investigation by Durham County Council Governance Solicitor (Ref. Standing Order No. 32 – Code of Conduct.)

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

79. OUTSIDE BODIES

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

- (a) **Youth Council**
Councillor Derek G. Atkinson gave a report on the meeting which had taken place on the 24 October.
- (b) **County Durham Association of Local Councils**
Councillor R.S. Fleming gave an update from the meeting.
- (c) **Aycliffe Village Community Association**
Councillor Bill Blenkinsopp had not been available to attend.
- (d) **Woodham Village Community Association**
There was no report.
- (e) **Great Aycliffe and Middridge Local Council's Committee**
No meeting had been held.
- (f) **Larger Local Councils' Forum**
No meeting had been held.
- (g) **Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society**
Councillor I. Gray gave a current update on works to vehicles.
- (h) **Friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve**
Councillor I. Gray gave an update.
- (i) **Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway**
Councillor Dave Hardaker gave an update on the work of this group.
- (j) **GAMP – Community Safety Task Group**
No Meeting.

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

CHAIRMAN.