

## **COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, 11 DECEMBER 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, 11 December 2019 at 7.15 p.m.

### **PRESENT**

**Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton (Chairman)** and  
Councillors Eddy Adam, M. Ashcroft, Derek G. Atkinson, Jim Atkinson, Bill Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, R.S. Fleming, George C. Gray, I. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, Mrs. I. Hewitson, Kate Hopper, Mrs V. Raw, Paul Symons and Sally Symons.

### **OFFICERS**

Mr A Bailey (Town Clerk)  
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin. Officer)

### **80. NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

### **81. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors P.J. Bergg, J. Clark, Dave Hardaker, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson and Ken Robson.

### **82. MEMBERS' DISPENSATION**

No dispensation requests had been received.

### **83. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There had been no Declarations of Interest submitted.

### **84. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from the public.

### **85. MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming, seconded by Councillor Bill Blenkinsopp and

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## 86. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor had submitted a list of appointments she had attended for the period 30<sup>th</sup> October to the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

She gave special mention to the Water Polo Club Presentation she had attended and for the donation of £169 she had received for her charity.

The Town Clerk announced that a letter of resignation had been received from Councillor Keith Henderson. The information would be forwarded to Durham County Council Electoral Services to declare the a vacancy in the Woodham Ward.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the information from the Mayor be noted.
- (ii) That an appropriate letter be forwarded to Keith Henderson thanking him for his many years of service as a Town Councillor.

## 87. COMMITTEE MINUTES

### (a) Environment Committee

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

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 27 November 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 Bill Blenkinsopp and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the Recreation Committee held on the 27 November 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. Ashcroft and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 4 December 2019 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

## 88. ROYAL GARDEN PARTY

Consideration was given to this Council sending a nomination for attendance at a Royal Garden Party to be held in 2020.

It was proposed that Councillor Mrs. V.M. Raw be nominated to enter the draw for two of the places allocated by the County Durham Association of Local Councils.

**RESOLVED** – that Councillor Mrs. V.M. Raw's name be forwarded to the Secretary of CDALC for possible attendance at a Royal Garden Party for 2020.

## 89. DISPENSATION

A request had been received from Councillor P.J. Bergg for a dispensation from attendance at Council Meetings due to his ill health.

**RESOLVED** – that a six month dispensation be granted to Councillor P.J. Bergg and a get well message be forwarded to him on behalf of the Council.

## 90. A167 LIGHTING FUNDING

Councillor Arun M. Chandran raised an item regarding the failure of this Council to make provision for the renewal of the agreement due to expire in 6 years time and look at upgrading lighting to LEDS.

It was pointed out that further discussions would take place on costings provision for the lighting with the Finance Manager at the time the Medium Term Financial Plan is updated. The current Contract was from July 2015 to July 2025 which would be a matter for discussion by the newly appointed Councillors in the next term of office.

Councillor Eddy Adam provided information in regard to indicative only costs of replacing light poles, received from Officers at Durham County Council.

**RESOLVED** – that the information be received at this stage pending the updating of the Medium Term Financial Plan and further discussion.

## 91. GAMP – DEMENTIA GROUP

Information had been received from the Pioneering Care Partnership asking the Council to consider whether there was any interest for a Councillor to serve on the Steering Group of a 'Dementia Friendly Community'. It would involve a one day Dementia Champion Course and also help to roll this venture out across the community.

It was proposed by Councillor Arun M. Chandran and seconded by Councillor Paul Symons that Councillor Mrs. Dorothy Bowman be appointed to the steering group.

**RESOLVED** – that Councillor Mrs. D. Bowman be nominated to serve on the Steering Group of a 'Dementia Friendly Community'.

## 92. SUPPORT FOR THE LOCAL ENERGY BILL

Information had been received from 'Power for People' seeking help in their campaign for more local, clean energy generation that would benefit local communities.

The group were asking the Council to support the Local Electricity Bill and sign up to the Campaign.

Further information had been received from NALC asking Councils to receive the information to date but leave any decisions until such times as a clearer picture on the Local Electricity Bill has been received from NALC.

**RESOLVED** – that the information be received and no further action taken at this time.

## 93. OUTSIDE BODIES

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

**(a) Youth Council**

Councillor Jim Atkinson gave a report on the meeting which had taken place on the 21 November.

**(b) County Durham Association of Local Councils**

No meeting.

**(c) Aycliffe Village Community Association**

Councillor Bill Blenkinsopp had not been available to attend.

**(d) Woodham Village Community Association**

Mr. David Sutton-Lloyd was in attendance at the meeting and gave members an update.

Following the resignation of Councillor Keith Henderson a vacancy for a representative to serve on this Association was now available.

**(e) Great Aycliffe and Middridge Local Council's Committee**

No meeting had been held.

**(f) Larger Local Councils' Forum**

Representatives were unable to attend the meeting.

**(g) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society**

Councillor I. Gray gave a current update and informed of the AGM to be held on the 25 February.

**(h) Friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve**

Councillor I. Gray gave an update.

**(i) Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway**

In the absence of the Representative Councillor J.D. Clare gave a brief update.

- (j) **GAMP – Community Safety Task Group**  
Councillor B. Hall had been unable to attend the meeting.

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

**94. EXEMPT BUSINESS**

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

**RESOLVED** – that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it was in the opinion of the Council, advisable that the public and press be excluded from the meeting

**95. REQUEST FOR COUNCIL COMMENDATION**

The Works and Environment Manager had submitted a report seeking the Council to acknowledge the kind and community spirited efforts of a member of the public.

Members were asked to consider an appropriate way to commend the individual.

It was proposed that the Mayor present a certificate of commendation in conjunction with the gifts being given from members of the public.

It was also suggested that the Chairman of the Environment Committee may wish to attend the presentation.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That an appropriate certificate of commendation be presented by the Mayor.
- (ii) That the Town Clerk use his discretion on the presentation once he has liaised with the organisers of the acknowledgements to the individual.

**96. RE-ADMISSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended that the press and public be re-admitted to the meeting.

**CHAIRMAN.**