

## **COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, 29 JANUARY 2020 – 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, 29 January 2020 at 7.15 p.m.

### **PRESENT**

**Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton (Chairman)** and  
Councillors Eddy Adam, M. Ashcroft, Jim Atkinson, Kathy Beetham, 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, Dave Hardaker, Mrs. I. Hewitson, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, Kate Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs V. Raw, Ken Robson and Paul Symons.

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Lindsey Herring (Commissioner – Children’s Services – D.C.C.)  
Maureen Gaunt (Residential Homes Manager)  
Claire Morris (Strategic Manager – Looked after Resources)

### **OFFICERS**

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

### **97. NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

### **98. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Derek G. Atkinson, P.J. Bergg, B. Hall and Sally Symons.

### **99. MEMBERS’ DISPENSATION**

No dispensation requests had been received.

### **100. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**Councillor Mrs. Mary Dalton (Chairman of the Council) announced that she would vacate the Chairman’s Chair during the discussion on Agenda Item No. 10 for personal reasons, however, she would remain in the meeting during any discussion thereon.**

### **101. NEW CHILDREN’S HOME – AYCLIFFE NORTH AND MIDDRIDGE AREA**

Representatives from Durham County Council Adult and Health Services were in attendance to give a presentation and answer Members questions on the proposed development of a new children’s home for 3 children which would be sited in the Aycliffe North and Middridge Area.

Following the informative presentation Members were given the opportunity to give their views and ask a questions. It was pointed out that the proposed siting of the home would be the Woodham area.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the information in respect of a children's home being sited in the Woodham was welcomed.
- (ii) That the representatives from Durham County Council be thanked for their attendance.

**102. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from the public.

**103. MINUTES**

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

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**104. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had submitted a list of appointments she had attended for the period 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019 to the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

The Mayor informed the Council that Councillor Mrs. V. Raw had been selected for a place to attend a Royal Garden Party on the 12<sup>th</sup> May.

She also reminded Members of her forthcoming Civic Dinner and the need to sell tickets. Prizes would also be much appreciated for the fund raising.

The Town Clerk reminded Members to let him know if they wished to enrol for the Risk Training Session.

The results of the prize draw for the Town Satisfaction Survey was also reported.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the information from the Mayor be noted.
- (ii) That the information in respect of the Royal Garden Party and the Satisfaction Survey draw be noted.

**105. 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 15 January 2020 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 M. Iveson and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the Recreation Committee held on the 15 January 2020 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

**(c) Special Recreation Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor Jed Hillary, seconded by Councillor Kathy Beetham and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 22 January 2020 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

**(d) 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 22 January 2020 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

**106. ADHERENCE OF STANDING ORDERS**

**Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton (Chairman of the Council) vacated the Chair for this agenda item but would remain in the meeting during the discussions.**

**Councillor Wendy Hillary (Vice Chairman) took the chair for this item.**

Councillor Arun M. Chandran wished Members to consider the contents of the following statement of a situation which had occurred at a meeting of the Council held on the 11 December 2019 when a member of the public had been allowed to speak on an 'Outside Bodies' item for Woodham Community Association:-

*"Is it the intention of the Mayor and Leader of the Labour Group to ignore/defy the Law, Standing Orders and the advice of the Town Clerk? and just make up their own rules as they go along?"*

Councillor Arun Chandran gave an address to the Council on the situation which had occurred at the meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> December.

The Town Clerk provided advice in regard to Public Participation in meetings and adherence to Council Standing Orders.

It was moved by Councillor M. Iveson, seconded by Councillor R.S. Fleming that Standing Order No. 6 (d) be suspended to allow a speaker to make a presentation for longer than the statutory five minutes.

Councillor R.S. Fleming gave a lengthy speech on behalf of himself and the Chairman of the Council in answer to the questions submitted by Councillor Arun M. Chandran.

Members were given the opportunity to speak on the subject and it was:-

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the information given in regard to the Chairman of the Council allowing a member of the public to speak on an item of 'Outside Bodies' be acknowledged and no further action taken.
- (ii) That the suspension of Standing Order No. 6 (d) be rescinded.

**Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton asked Councillor Wendy Hillary, Vice-Chairman, to continue as Chairman for the remainder of the meeting.**

#### **107. NEWTON AYCLIFFE 2020 TRAFFIC REGULATIONS ORDER**

Information had been circulated in respect of plans for part of the 2020 Newton Aycliffe Traffic Regulation Order.

The two areas to be considered were:-

EA65 – West Terrace

*'No waiting at any time' restrictions to be extended around the junction from High Street into West Terrace to improve visibility and accessibility'.*

DZ61 and EA61 – Newton Park Services

*'No waiting at any time' (double yellow lines) to be introduced on both sides of the entrance to improve accessibility around Newton Park Services Estate'.*

**RESOLVED** – that the information be received.

#### **108. NALC – SPRING CONFERENCE 2020**

The Town Clerk had submitted joining information and a Programme for the Spring Conference of NALC to be held in London on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

Members were asked to consider whether the Council should attend the 2020 Conference.

**RESOLVED** – that the Council does not send a representative to the NALC 2020 Conference.

## 109. APPROVAL OF 2020/21 COUNCIL PRECEPT

The Finance Manager submitted a report to seek approval for the setting of the Council's 2020/21 Precept thereby allowing the submission of the Precept Request Form to be delivered to Durham County Council for the setting of the Town Council proportion of the Council Tax.

Members considered the report and voted unanimously to the setting of the Precept at £1,717,500.

### **RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the 2020/21 Council Precept at £1,717,500 be approved.
- (ii) That the Chairman (Mayor) be authorised to sign the Precept Form.
- (iii) That the Precept Form be delivered to Durham County Council on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020.
- (iv) That the information provided in regard to the robustness of the budget estimates and adequacy of the Council's balances and reserves be noted.

## 110. OUTSIDE BODIES

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

- (a) **Youth Council**  
Councillor Jim Atkinson gave an update from the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January.
- (b) **County Durham Association of Local Councils**  
No meeting.
- (c) **Aycliffe Village Community Association**  
Councillor Bill Blenkinsopp had been unable to attend the meeting.
- (d) **Woodham Village Community Association**  
Councillor B.A. Clare announced that as she was unable to attend meetings of the Association on a Monday evening she wished to resign from this Outside Body in order that an appointment could be made.

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

It was proposed by Councillor M. Ashcroft and seconded by Councillor Ken Robson that Councillor Paul Symons be appointed as one of the representatives to service on the Woodham Community Association.

It was further agreed that the other vacant position be left in abeyance until such time as a replacement Councillor is appointed in the Woodham Ward.

- (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 from the AGM which was held on the 25 January.
- (h) **Friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve**  
Councillor I. Gray gave an update.
- (i) **Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway**  
Councillor Dave Hardaker reported that he would be able to give a full report at the next meeting.
- (j) **GAMP – Community Safety Task Group**  
No report.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the information given from the Representatives serving on the Outside Bodies be received.
- (ii) That Councillor Paul Symons be appointed to serve on the Woodham Village Community Association in place of Councillor B.A. Clare.
- (iii) That the appointment of a second representative to serve on the Woodham Village Community Association, following the resignation of Keith Henderson, be left in abeyance until the Woodham Ward election has taken place.

**CHAIRMAN.**