

## **COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, 2nd SEPTEMBER 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, and virtually, on Wednesday, 2nd September 2020 at 7.15 p.m.

### **PRESENT**

#### **Councillor R.S. Fleming (Chairman) and**

Councillors Eddy Adam, M. Ashcroft, Derek G Atkinson, Jim Atkinson, Kathy Beetham, P.J. Bergg, Bill Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, J. Clark, George C. Gray, I. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, Dave Hardaker, Mrs. I. Hewitson, Kate Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Ken Robson, Michael Stead, Paul Symons and Sally Symons.

### **OFFICERS**

Mr A Bailey (Town Clerk)  
Mr. D. Austin (Finance Manager)  
Mrs. C. Walton (Corporate and Policy Officer)  
Miss A. Donald (Town Clerk's PA)

### **139. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council it was proposed by Councillor M. Iveson and seconded by Councillor M. Ashcroft that Councillor R.S. Fleming be appointed as Chairman for this meeting.

**RESOLVED** – that Councillor R.S. Fleming be appointed Chairman for the meeting.

**Councillor R.S. Fleming took the Chair.**

### **140. NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

### **141. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs. M. Dalton, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary and Mrs. V.M. Raw.

### **142. MEMBERS' DISPENSATION**

No dispensation requests had been received.

### **143. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Eddy Adam, Jim Atkinson, J.D. Clare, Kate Hopper and Mrs. S.J. Iveson declared a pecuniary interest under item 15 (Notice of Motion – Double Taxation) on the agenda as Members of Durham County Council.

### **144. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

#### **145. MINUTES**

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

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **146. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

The Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Councillor Michael Stead, following the by-election held on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020, was received.

**RESOLVED** – that the Declaration of Acceptance of Office be received.

#### **147. VACANCY – POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Members considered appointing a Member to serve on the Policy and Resources Committee, following the resignation of the previous serving member.

**RESOLVED** – that Councillor Michael Stead be appointed to serve on the Policy and Resources Committee.

#### **148. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements from the Mayor and Town Clerk.

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

#### **149. 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 19<sup>th</sup> August 2020, 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 M. Iveson, and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the Recreation Committee, held on the 19<sup>th</sup> August 2020, be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

**(c) Policy and Resources Committee**

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

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

**150. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY – COVID 19**

The Town Clerk submitted a report advising members of decisions taken by the Town Clerk, in consultation with relevant members, associated with the impact of the Covid-19 emergency.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- i) That the report be received.
- ii) That the Town Clerk's actions be confirmed.
- iii) That the delegated powers given to the Town Clerk related to the Covid-19 crisis be rescinded.

**151. LAND AND PROPERTY UPDATE**

The Town Clerk submitted a report advising members of matters relating to wayleaves across Council property

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- i) That the information in regard to progress with deeds of easement and a wayleave be received.
- ii) That the requirement for the sealing of two separate deeds of easement be noted.
- iii) That the completion of a wayleave to British Telecommunications PLC be noted.

**152. MAST LEASE RENEWAL**

The Town Clerk submitted a report advising members of the renewal of the telecommunications mast lease and the effects of changes in legislation on the lease terms and valuation.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be received.

## 153. CIVIC EVENTS

The Town Clerk submitted a report seeking members' consideration of the annual events which take place on behalf of the Mayor during their term of office.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

That the following Mayoral events be cancelled for the 2020/21 municipal year:

- Civic Service
- Mayor's 'At Home'
- Carol Service
- Civic Dinner

## 154. NOTICE OF MOTION

**Councillors Eddy Adam, Jim Atkinson, J.D. Clare, Kate Hopper and Mrs. S.J. Iveson declared a pecuniary interest under item 15 on the agenda as Members of Durham County Council and did not take part in discussions on this item.**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Michael Stead:

*"This Council applauds the close working relationship between Durham County Council and Town and Parish Councils across County Durham.*

*In recognising this relationship this Council also notes that not all of County Durham is Parished.*

*Residents in the Great Aycliffe Town Council area pay council tax to Durham County Council for services in unparished areas which they also pay to this Council. This situation is often referred to as Double Taxation.*

*This situation goes against the principles of natural justice and fair taxation.*

*This Council therefore calls on Durham County Council to bring forward a report with a view to identifying the services and their associated total costs that residents would receive from the County Council if the area were unparished. While also exploring all solutions to the imbalance taxpayers of parished and unparished areas face, along with details of any financial implications."*

The motion was seconded by Councillor Mrs. I. Hewitson.

During the ensuing debate, it was noted that this motion had also been submitted to neighbouring Town Councils by members of those Councils.

Councillor Fleming advised that this was an ongoing issue which had been raised by the Town Council on a number of previous occasions in the past, including by the Local Councils Working Group, with Durham County Council and was, in fact, on the agenda for consideration at the next meeting of the Larger Local Councils Committee of CDALC (County Durham Association of Local Councils).

A vote was taken and the motion was defeated.

It was proposed by Councillor M. Iveson that:

“The action of Councillor Fleming, in his capacity as Larger Local Councils’ Forum representative, in raising the matter of double taxation on the agenda of the next meeting of the Larger Local Councils’ Committee of CDALC, with a view to double taxation issues being addressed County wide by CDALC with Durham County Council be noted and endorsed.”

The proposal was seconded by Councillor M. Ashcroft.

A vote was taken and the proposal carried.

**RESOLVED** – That the action of Councillor Fleming, as a Larger Local Councils’ Forum representative, in raising the matter of double taxation on the agenda of the next meeting of the Larger Local Councils’ Committee of CDALC, with a view to double taxation issues being addressed County wide by CDALC with Durham County Council be noted and endorsed.

## **155. OUTSIDE BODIES**

To receive reports from representatives on the following Outside Bodies:

- (a) Youth Council  
No meeting.
- (b) County Durham Association of Local Councils  
No meeting.
- (c) Aycliffe Village Community Association  
No meeting.
- (d) Woodham Village Community Association  
No meeting.
- (e) Great Aycliffe and Middridge Local Councils’ Committee  
No meeting.
- (f) Larger Local Councils’ Forum  
No meeting.
- (g) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society  
Councillor I. Gray gave an update report.
- (h) Friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve  
Councillor I. Gray gave an update report.
- (i) Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway  
Councillor Dave Hardaker gave an update report.
- (j) GAMP – Community Safety Task Group  
No meeting.

**CHAIRMAN.**