

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 7th APRIL 2021

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, and virtually, on **WEDNESDAY, 7th APRIL 2021 at 7.15 p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillor M. Ashcroft, (Chairman) and:
Councillors Eddy Adam, Derek G. Atkinson, Jim Atkinson, Kathy Beetham, P.J. Bergg, Arun M. Chandran, B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, J. Clark, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, George C. Gray, I Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, Dave Hardaker, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, Kate Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs S.J. Iveson, Mrs V.M. Raw and Ken Robson.

OFFICERS

Mr. D. Austin (Town Clerk)
Mr. S. Cooper (Works and Environment Manager)
Mr. L. Williams (Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator)
Mrs. J. Thexton (Head of Leisure and Events)
Mrs. S. Stretch (Senior Administrative Officer)

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Michael Stead

123. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Bill Blenkinsopp, Mrs D. Bowman and B. Hall.

124. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

No applications for dispensations had been received.

125. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

126. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

127. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Malcolm Iveson and seconded by Councillor Ian Gray, and

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee, held on the 24th February 2021, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

128. ALLOTMENTS REPORT

The Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator submitted a report updating members on issues relating to the Council's allotments for the six-week period ended 28th March 2021.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the report be received.

129. ENVIRONMENT REPORT

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report to update members on issues relating to the environment for the six-week period ended 28th March 2021.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the report be received.

130. CEMETERIES REPORT

The Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator submitted a report giving information regarding issues relating to the cemeteries, as well as burials and grants of grave spaces for the six-week period ended 28th March 2021.

Following discussion around the flooding issues at Stephenson Way Cemetery, Councillor Arun Chandran proposed that officers investigate further mitigating actions to address the flooding issues at Stephenson Way Cemetery

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that

- i) the report be received.
- ii) Officers investigate further mitigating actions to address the flooding issues at Stephenson Way Cemetery.

131. WORKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – SERVICE PLAN

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report presenting the draft Works and Environment Service Plan for 2021/22 for members' consideration.

Councillor E. Adam commended the Service Plan and Councillor Jed Hillary proposed that the appreciation of Members be recorded for the work of the Works Department during what has been a trying year.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report be received.
- ii) The draft Works and Environment Service Plan for 2021/22 be accepted, subject to a minor amendment to update the reference to the Town Clerk within the plan to reflect the name of the new officer.
- iii) The appreciation of members be recorded for the work of the Works Department during a trying year.

132. AYCLIFFE BEE KEEPING ASSOCIATION

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report regarding a request from Aycliffe Bee Keeping Association for the use of a plot at St Oswald's Allotments for the purposes of teaching those with an interest in keeping bees.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor E. Adam that Plot 85 be offered for use as a teaching plot, and the rent for the plot be free of charge for the first year, to be reviewed thereafter. Councillor Arun Chandran seconded the proposal and further proposed that location 2, adjacent to Plot 104 be made available for any future requests for a training plot or apiary, subject to a report to the Environment Committee.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report be received.
- ii) That Option 1 – Plot 85 at St. Oswald's allotments site be used as the new teaching site for Aycliffe Bee Keeping Association.
- iii) The rent for the plot is offered free of charge for twelve months, and subject to review thereafter.
- iv) That the land adjacent to Plot 104, is made available for any future requests for a training plot or apiary, subject to a report to the Environment Committee.

133. BUS SHELTER SEATING PROVISION

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report regarding the provision of seating associated with Town Council managed bus shelters.

It was proposed by Councillor R. Fleming and seconded by Councillor E. Adam that additional seating be purchased for the three bus shelters referenced in the report, and that the cost be funded from the revenue contingency budget, subject to agreement at the next Policy and Resources meeting.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report be received.
- ii) Additional seating be installed in the bus shelters referred to in the report, one on Williamfield Way, and two on Stephenson Way, located outside Pease Way Surgery and opposite Carileph Close.
- iii) Funding be allocated from the Revenue Budget Contingency Sum at a cost of approximately £870, subject to approval at the next Policy and Resources meeting.

CHAIRMAN.