

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 28th JULY 2021 – 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 28th JULY 2021** at **7.15 p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs. Sandra Haigh (Chairman)

Councillors Eddy Adam, Tony Armstrong, Jim Atkinson, Peter Bergg, Dorothy Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, John D. Clare, Neil Collinson, Bob Fleming, George Gray, Ian Gray, Brian Haigh, Brian Hall, Dave Hardaker, Phillip Hawkins, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, Kate Hopper, Joanne Jones, Neville Jones, Andrea Miller, John Moore, Carl Robinson, Ken Robson, Maureen Shelton, and Michael Stead.

OFFICERS

Mr. D. Austin (Town Clerk)

Mrs. S. Stretch (Senior Administration Officer)

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. S. Allison

41. NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

The Chairman provided apologies on behalf of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Durham, Joy Allen who was unable to attend the meeting.

42. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Martin Ashcroft, Barbara A. Clare, and John Clark.

43. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

There had been no requests for dispensations under disclosable or non-disclosable interests.

44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

45. DURHAM CONSTABULARY UPDATE

The Chairman welcomed Acting Inspector Andy Boyd to the meeting to provide an update on anti-social behaviour within the Town and new initiatives that are being introduced to help divert anti-social behaviour including the use of using e-bikes.

The PACT priorities were discussed, and members were asked for their thoughts on how to progress with the reintroduction of PACT meetings. It was reiterated that Great Aycliffe is still a relatively safe place to live, work and socialise.

Members were then given the opportunity of asking questions which were duly answered by the Police Officer.

46. POLICING IN NEWTON AYCLIFFE

Councillor Tony Armstrong raised a specific question asking if town councillors could receive regular updates from the police regarding issues affecting the town and also raised a specific issue regarding speeding on the A167.

Acting Inspector Boyd identified a number of existing areas where information can be found e.g. signing up to the 'Keep in the Know' emails and indicated that the police would be happy to work alongside Councillors and community volunteers to address the speeding problems on the A167.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Chairman thanked Acting Inspector Boyd for attending. Acting Inspector Boyd thanked the Council for the opportunity given for him to attend and discuss current issues.

Councillor Jed Hillary left the meeting at this point.

47. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

48. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Ken Robson, seconded by Councillor Arun M. Chandran and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 16th June 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

49. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Clerk gave a brief outline of a forthcoming Fun in the Park event on 25th August which will incorporate the Mayor at Home Civic Event.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

50. COMMITTEE MINUTES

(a) Environment Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Ken Robson, seconded by Councillor Arun M. Chandran and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 14th July 2021 be received, and
- ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(b) Recreation Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Ken Robson, seconded by Councillor George Gray and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 14th July 2021 be received, and approved
- ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(c) Policy and Resources Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Arun M. Chandran, seconded by Councillor Ken Robson and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- i) that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 21st July 2021 be received and approved subject to Minute 44 regarding the Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor John D. Clare being referred back to the Policy and Resources Committee for further consideration.
- ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

Councillor John D. Clare requested that if possible, any future amendments to motions are prepared, printed, and circulated so that Councillors can see what they are voting on.

Councillor Jed Hillary returned to the meeting at this stage.

51. NOTICE OF MOTION

The following Notice of Motion (numbered 1 and 2) was proposed by Councillor Arun M. Chandran and seconded by Councillor Ken Robson:

1(a) That Minute 40 of Full Council on 12th June 2019, as set out below, is hereby rescinded.

(i) *That the Motion as written be agreed:*

“That the point of entry for members of the public be the rear Council Chamber door which is accessed from the Public Car Park. This door to be open for public access 30 minutes prior to the advertised time of the meeting. This to apply equally to all persons unless they are invited through reception by a Councillor or Member of Staff”.

(ii) *That Standing Order No. 1 (c) (ii) be amended to take into account the Notice of Motion to allow members of the public to use the reception door if invited by a Councillor or Member of Staff.*

Councillor Eddy Adam and Councillor John D. Clare gave some background to the original motion and spoke in opposition to the motion.

Councillor John D. Clare then requested a named vote on the motion.

The result of the named vote was as follows:

For:

Councillors Tony Armstrong, Dorothy Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, Bob Fleming, George Gray, Brian Haigh, Mrs. Sandra Haigh, Phillip Hawkins, Joanne Jones, Neville Jones, Andrea Miller, John Moore, Carl Robinson, Ken Robson, Maureen Shelton, and Michael Stead.

Against:

Councillors Eddy Adam, Jim Atkinson, Peter Bergg, John D. Clare, Neil Collinson, Ian Gray, Brian Hall, Dave Hardaker, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, and Kate Hopper.

16 votes for and 11 against. The Motion was carried.

RESOLVED – as follows:

i) that the previous minute 40 – Notice of Motion is hereby rescinded.

The Chair explained that members will now be voting on the proposed change to Standing Order 1 (c)(ii).

1(b) That Standing Order 1 (c)(ii) is amended to read as follows:-

“That the point of entry for members of the public be the rear Council Chamber door which is accessed from the Public Car Park. This door to be open for public access 30 minutes prior to the advertised time of the meeting”.

The Town Clerk clarified that this motion would remove the text ‘to allow members of the public to use the reception door if invited by a Councillor or Member of staff’, therefore preventing members of the public from accessing the chamber via the main entrance.

Councillor John D. Clare then requested a named vote on the amendment to Standing Order 1 (c)(ii).

The result of the named vote was as follows:

For:

Councillors Tony Armstrong, Dorothy Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, Bob Fleming, George Gray, Brian Haigh, Mrs. Sandra Haigh, Phillip Hawkins, Joanne Jones, Neville Jones, Andrea Miller, John Moore, Carl Robinson, Ken Robson, Maureen Shelton, and Michael Stead.

Against:

Councillors Eddy Adam, Jim Atkinson, Peter Bergg, John D. Clare, Neil Collinson, Ian Gray, Brian Hall, Dave Hardaker, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, and Kate Hopper.

16 votes for and 11 against. The Motion was carried.

RESOLVED – as follows:

- i) that Standing Order 1 (c)(ii) be amended as follows:

“That the point of entry for members of the public be the rear Council Chamber door which is accessed from the Public Car Park. This door to be open for public access 30 minutes prior to the advertised time of the meeting”.

Councillor Jed Hillary added that it is a sad day when we positively discriminate against disabled people.

The second part of the Notice of Motion was then discussed:

2(a) That Standing Order 1(i) be amended to read as follows:

“A person shall raise his hand when requesting to speak and may stand when speaking”.

This motion was agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED – that:

- (i) Standing Order 1(i) be amended to read as follows:

“A person shall raise his hand when requesting to speak and may stand when speaking”.

2(b) That Standing Order 4 (Motions Requiring Written Notice) be amended to read as follows:

“(a) If a motion falls within the terms of reference of a committee or sub-committee or within the delegated powers conferred on an employee, it shall stand automatically referred to such committee or sub-committee or employee. In the case of urgency or expediency the Proper Officer shall consider calling a Special meeting of the relevant Committee or Sub Committee in consultation with relevant Chairman and Vice Chairman”.

After a lengthy discussion, a vote was taken with the following results:

16 votes for and 11 against. The motion was carried.

RESOLVED – that

- i) Standing Order 4 (Motions Requiring Written Notice) be amended to read as follows:

“(a) If a motion falls within the terms of reference of a committee or sub-committee or within the delegated powers conferred on an employee, it shall stand automatically referred to such committee or sub-committee or employee. In the case of urgency or expediency the Proper Officer shall consider calling a Special meeting of the relevant Committee or Sub Committee in consultation with relevant Chairman and Vice Chairman”.

52. MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

The Town Clerk submitted a report seeking consideration from members for the possible update of the Council’s Members’ Code of Conduct to bring it in line with the updated Durham County Council Code of Conduct.

Councillor Peter Bergg queried why there was no mention of ‘trustee of organisations’ within Appendix B on Other Relevant Interests. The Town Clerk agreed to look into this and include it in the final approved version.

Councillor Jed Hillary requested that paragraph 5.14 references initially raising any concerns regarding sensitive interests with the Town Clerk.

It was proposed by Councillor Arun Chandran, seconded by Councillor Eddy Adam and

RESOLVED – that:

- i) the report be received;
- ii) Agree to Option 2 – To adopt the Durham County Council Code of Conduct with relevant elements of the Town Council’s current Code retained and that above the Members suggestions be included.

53. ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

The Town Clerk advised that Councillor Tony Armstrong wishes to step down as a member of the Environment Committee and requested that the appointment of a replacement be considered.

RESOLVED – that:

- i) Councillor Joanne Jones be appointed to replace Councillor Tony Armstrong on the Environment Committee.

54. WESTERN AREA PARTNERSHIP

The Western Area Partnership had requested nominations for two representatives from Great Aycliffe Town Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Arun M. Chandran, seconded by Councillor Ken Robson that Councillor George Gray and Councillor Martin Ashcroft be appointed to the partnership.

Councillor Eddy Adam further proposed that Councillor Kate Hopper be nominated.

A vote then took place with following results:

For Councillor George Gray – 16 votes

For Councillor Martin Ashcroft – 16 votes

For Councillor Kate Hopper – 11 votes

RESOLVED – that:

- i) that Councillors George Gray and Martin Ashcroft be appointed to the Western Area Partnership.

55. COUNCILLOR TRAINING

The Town Clerk had submitted a report providing Members with an update on councillor training.

RESOLVED – that:

- i) the report be received
- ii) the training already undertaken by new and returning councillors via the Council's Induction Training Programme be noted;
- iii) the forthcoming 'in-house' training which will be offered after the summer recess be noted; and
- iv) the list of external training courses available via the County Durham Association of Local Councils County Training Partnership be noted and Members to advise the Town Clerk or Senior Administration Officer if they wish to book a place on any of these courses.

56. OUTSIDE BODIES

Reports were given by representatives on the undermentioned Outside Bodies:

- (a) Youth Council
No meeting has taken place.
- (b) County Durham Association of Local Councils
No meeting has taken place.
- (c) Aycliffe Village Hall Association
The representative has been unable to attend the meeting.
- (d) Woodham Village Community Association
No meeting has taken place.
- (e) Great Aycliffe and Middridge Local Councils' Committee
No meeting has taken place.
- (f) Larger Local Councils' Forum
Councillor Arun M. Chandran submitted a verbal report on a meeting that took place in July online. Among the items discussed was double taxation, the uncertainty around the LCTSS and devolution of services.
- (g) Newton Aycliffe Bus Preservation Society
Councillor Ian Gray gave an update report.
- (h) Friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve
Councillor Ian Gray gave an update report.
- (i) Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway
Councillor Dave Hardaker gave an update report.

CHAIRMAN.