

## **COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022 – 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 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022** at **7.15 p.m.**

### **PRESENT**

#### **Councillor Mrs. Sandra Haigh (Chairman)**

Councillors Eddy Adam, Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Lindsey Aston, Jim Atkinson, Peter Bergg, Dorothy Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, John Clark, Bob Fleming, George Gray, Ian Gray, Brian Haigh, Phillip Hawkins, Andy Hill, Jed Hillary, Kate Hopper, Joanne Jones, Neville Jones, John Moore, Ken Robson, Carl Robinson, Michael Stead, Anne Woodward and John Woodward.

### **OFFICERS**

Mr. D. Austin (Town Clerk)  
Mrs. T. Woodhead (Finance Manager)  
Mrs. J. Thexton (Head of Leisure and Events)  
Mrs. S. Stretch (Senior Administration Officer)  
Ms. J. Walton (Corporate Assistant)

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Paul Howarth (Ayclife Events)  
Alan Meadows (Ayclife Events / Northern Productions)

### **126. NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

### **127. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Neil Collinson, Wendy Hillary, Andrea Miller and Maureen Shelton.

### **128. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No dispensation requests had been received.

### **129. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Phillip Hawkins declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 11 as he volunteers as a presenter on Aycliffe Radio who are involved in the organisation of the Ayclife Music Festival.

### **130. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

### 131. MINUTES

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

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 132. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor submitted a list of appointments which had been attended for the period up to 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022. There were no Town Clerk announcements.

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

### 133. COMMITTEE MINUTES

#### (a) Environment Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft, seconded by Councillor Eddy Adam and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022 be received; and
- ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

#### (b) Recreation Committee

Councillor Martin Ashcroft wished to have it recorded that he felt Minute 100 did not reflect the tone of the debate on the Sports Complex New Developments Report and that the pay per view price was not deemed to be excessive as some or all of the expenditure could be recouped via bar sales.

It was proposed by Councillor George Gray, seconded by Councillor Andy Hill and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022 be received; subject to the comments made by Councillor Martin Ashcroft being noted;
- ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

#### (c) Policy and Resources Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Dorothy Bowman, seconded by Councillor Lindsey Aston and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022 be received; and
- ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

#### **134. ANNUAL UPDATE OF THE COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

The Finance Manager submitted a report setting out for members consideration and approval, the annual update of the Council's Financial Regulations.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- i) That the annual update of the Council's Financial Regulations report be received; and
- ii) That the proposed changes be agreed, prior to their formal adoption at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 18<sup>th</sup> May.

#### **135. ANNUAL UPDATE OF THE COUNCIL'S STANDING ORDERS FOR CONTRACTS AND PROCUREMENT**

The Finance Manager submitted a report setting out for members consideration and approval the annual update of the Council's Standing Orders for Contracts and Procurement. It was highlighted that the Standing Orders are fully compliant with the Public Contracts Regulations and had been reviewed by Durham County Council Procurement Department. It was noted that with increasing inflation, the thresholds for tenders and quotations had been increased.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- i) That the annual update of the Council's Standing Orders for Contracts and Procurement be received and;
- ii) That the proposed changes be agreed, prior to their formal adoption at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 18<sup>th</sup> May.

#### **136. AYCLIVE MUSIC FESTIVAL**

The Town Clerk and Head of Leisure and Events submitted a report setting out for members' consideration, an application for a £10,000 grant in relation to the holding of a music festival event; Ayclive 2022 on the Oak Leaf playing fields on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

It was noted that approval had previously been given, in principle, at the Recreation Committee Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> April, for the use of the Council's land to hold the event, subject to various assurances and paperwork being provided.

The Town Clerk gave a brief overview of the report drawing attention to the need for the Council to consider the conditions that would need to be attached to any grant award in event of the event generating a surplus of income over expenditure or the cancellation of the event. It was also suggested that a licence would need to be drawn up covering the requirements for the use of the Council's land.

Paul Howarth from Ayclive Events gave a statement in support of the planned event. It was explained that Ayclive Events are in the process of becoming a Community Interest Company and will operate on a not-for-profit basis. Many businesses have been approached regarding sponsorship of the event and staffing for the event has been organised via a combination of paid staff and volunteers. The event has been submitted to County Durham Safety Advisory Group and sign off for the event is awaited.

Any profits made from the event, the Town Council would be able to clawback or preferably, roll over to a future music festival event for the Town's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year.

A number of councillors asked questions of the organisers including the need for a grant when the event is ticketed, the need to seek sponsorship from local businesses, parking provision, whether the organisers have the time to make all preparations, due diligence, security cover, noise and anti-social behaviour, damage to the football field, especially if the weather was inclement, and guarantees to cover any damage, and the impact on the Oakleaf Sports Complex.

The Town Clerk confirmed that any grant would be funded from the Large Community Events Budget and that sufficient resources were available in this budget.

Following a lengthy debate, it was proposed by Councillor Arun Chandran and seconded by Councillor Martin Ashcroft:

- i) that all of the requirements and assurances set out in paragraph 5.4 of the report are addressed prior to the event and that delegation be given to the Town Clerk to organise a licence agreement to cover the use of the Council's land.
- ii) that the grant of £10,000 be given subject to the stipulation that if the event goes ahead and generates surplus of income over expenditure, the organisers agree to return a proportion of the grant to the Council, subject to negotiation with the Town Clerk.
- iii) that if the event does not go ahead, the full £10,000 grant be returned to the Council and not retained for an event next year and that the organisers ensure that their insurance cover provide for this eventuality.

It was further proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft that a named vote take place.

A name voted was carried out with the following results:

<b>For</b>		<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstained</b>
Tony Armstrong	Ken Robson	Peter Bergg	Eddy Adam
Martin Ashcroft	Michael Stead		
Lindsey Aston	Anne Woodward		
Jim Atkinson	John Woodward		
Dorothy Bowman			
Arun Chandran			
John Clark			
Bob Fleming			
George Gray			
Ian Gray			
Brian Haigh			
Sandra Haigh			
Andy Hill			
Jed Hillary			
Kate Hopper			
Joanne Jones			
Neville Jones			
John Moore			
Carl Robinson			

The proposal was carried by majority vote: 24 in favour, 1 against with 1 abstention.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- i) that all of the requirements and assurances set out in paragraph 5.4 of the report are addressed prior to the event and that delegation be given to the Town Clerk to organise a licence agreement to cover the use of the Council's land.
- ii) that the grant of £10,000 be given subject to the stipulation that if the event goes ahead and generates surplus of income over expenditure, the organisers agree to return a proportion of the grant to the Council, subject to negotiation with the Town Clerk.
- iii) that if the event does not go ahead, the full £10,000 grant be returned to the Council and not retained for an event next year and that the organisers ensure that their insurance cover provide for this eventuality.

**Alan Meadows and Paul Howarth left the meeting at this point.**

**137. OUTSIDE BODIES**

Reports were given by representatives on the following Outside Bodies:

- (a) **Youth Council**  
There had been no meeting.
- (b) **County Durham Association of Local Councils**  
There was nothing to report.
- (c) **Aycliffe Village Hall Association**  
Councillor Neville Jones gave an update.
- (d) **Woodham Village Community Association**  
There was nothing to report. Officers had contacted Woodham Village Community Association to confirm the dates of meetings via email, letter and left three telephone messages with no response to date.
- (e) **Great Aycliffe and Middridge Local Councils' Committee**  
There had been no meeting.
- (f) **Larger Local Councils' Forum**  
There was nothing to report.
- (g) **Newton Aycliffe Bus Preservation Society**  
Councillor Ian Gray delivered an update report.
- (h) **Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway**  
There was nothing to report.
- (i) **Western Area Partnership**  
Councillor George Gray submitted a report on the improvements being made in the Western Area.

**CHAIRMAN.**