

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 16TH JUNE 2021 – 7.15 p.m.

Minutes of the proceedings of the **ORDINARY MEETING** of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY 16TH JUNE 2021** at **7.15 p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs. Sandra Haigh (Chairman)

Councillors Eddy Adam, Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Jim Atkinson, Peter Bergg, Dorothy Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, Barbara A. Clare, John D. Clare, Neil Collinson, Bob Fleming, George Gray, Ian Gray, Brian Haigh, 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. T Woodhead (Finance Manager)

Mrs. S. Stretch (Senior Administration Officer)

Mrs. C. Walton (Corporate and Policy Officer)

IN ATTENDANCE

E. Brewis, Mrs. Longley, Mr S. Hocking and H. Brewster.

27. NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

28. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Clark and Brian Hall.

The Chairman submitted an apology on behalf of Paul Howell MP who was unable to attend the meeting.

29. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

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

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were received from Councillors Ken Robson, Neville Jones, and Michael Stead as county councillors, in regard to Agenda Item 11 on the Proposed Thermal Treatment Facility Planning Application.

31. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

32. MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Town Clerk advised of an addition to the minutes of the Annual Meeting on 19th May 2021 as follows:

Minute 2 b) Councillor Declarations of Acceptance of Office

The Town Clerk reported that all 30 Members had signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office following the elections on the 6th May 2021

Councillor Jim Atkinson also advised of an inaccuracy in the Outside Bodies List at Minute 15 (c) that 'Aycliffe Village Community Association' should read "Aycliffe Village Hall Association".

RESOLVED – as follows

- (i) That the above amendments be agreed;
- (ii) That the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on the 19th May 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

33. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Town Clerk's Announcements

The Town Clerk had received a request from the Western Area Partnership for the Council to appoint two councillor representatives.

It was proposed by Councillor Arun. M. Chandran that the Council places this request on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- i) That the request to appoint two councillor representatives to the Western Area Partnership is added to the agenda for the Council Meeting on 28th July.

34. COMMITTEE MINUTES

(a) Environment Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft, seconded by Councillor Bob Fleming and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 19th May 2021 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(b) Recreation Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Carl Robinson, seconded by Councillor Martin Ashcroft and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 19th May 2021 be received, and
- (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 Martin Ashcroft and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 19th May 2021 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(d) Environment Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft, seconded by Councillor Bob Fleming and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 2nd June 2021 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(e) Recreation Committee

Councillor Carl Robinson advised that the following comment had been omitted from the minutes:

“The committee thanked the staff at the golf complex for their efforts in re-opening the golf complex following the Covid restrictions and Andrew Neasham for his work in driving up the equipment sales”.

It was proposed by Councillor Dave Hardaker, seconded by Councillor Arun M. Chandran and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) that the above amendment be agreed;
- (ii) That the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 2nd June 2021 be received; and
- (iii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(f) Policy and Resources Committee

Councillor Eddy Adam queried the number of votes that were cast as referenced in Minute 16(f) and an omission of a request for information relating to the Community Benefit Fund.

There followed a debate around the accuracy of the minutes.

It was proposed by Councillor Eddy Adam and seconded by Councillor Jim Atkinson that progress be moved to the next agenda item.

It was proposed by Councillor Arun M. Chandran and seconded by Councillor Martin Ashcroft that a vote be taken.

A vote took place with the following results:

13 in favour and 15 against

The proposal to move to the next agenda item was defeated and Councillor Chandran made some final remarks and closed the debate.

It was then proposed by Councillor Arun M. Chandran, seconded by Councillor Martin Ashcroft and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 9th June 2021 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

35. DRAFT 2021/2022 TOWN COUNCIL SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN

A copy of the draft Town Council Service Delivery Plan for 2021/22 had been circulated for members approval.

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) that the Town Council Service Delivery Plan 2021/22 be approved.

36. PROPOSED THERMAL TREATMENT FACILITY - PLANNING APPLICATION DM/21/01500/WAS

A report was submitted to consider a relevant course of action following the consideration of planning application DM/21/01500/WAS at the Planning Sub Committee held on 25th May 2021 and the subsequent discussions and proposals made at the Environment Committee held on 2nd June 2021.

After much discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Arun M. Chandran and seconded by Councillor Bob Fleming that:-

1. That an article about the planning application and the Council's concerns about it is drafted and sent to the Newton News and Northern Echo, and that the Council agrees to pay for space in the newspapers if necessary;
2. That a public meeting is called to discuss the planning application subject to the Covid-19 restrictions being lifted;
3. That a planning consultant be engaged to advise the Council and that officer's monitor progress and report back to the Environment Committee.

A named vote was requested on the above with the following results:

For: Councillors Eddy Adam, Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Jim Atkinson, Peter Bergg, Dorothy Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, Barbara A. Clare, John D. Clare, Neil Collinson, Bob Fleming, George Gray, Ian Gray, Brian Haigh, Sandra Haigh, 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.

Against: None

The proposal was therefore carried, and it was

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the report be received;
- (ii) That an article about the planning application and the Council's concerns about it is drafted and sent to the Newton News and Northern Echo, and that the Council agrees to pay for space in the newspapers if necessary;
- (iii) That a public meeting is called to discuss the planning application subject to the Covid-19 restrictions being lifted;
- (iv) That a planning consultant be engaged to advise the Council and that officer's monitor progress and report back to the Environment Committee.

37. APPROVAL OF THE 2020/21 ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

A report was received requesting that the Council approve the Annual Internal Audit Report, which forms part of the Council's Annual Governance and Accountability Return, for the 2020/21 financial year.

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the report be received; and
- (ii) That the Annual Internal Audit Report be approved.

38. APPROVAL OF THE 2020/21 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

A report was received requesting that the Council approve the Council's Annual Governance Statement, which forms part of the Council's Annual Governance and Accountability Return, for the 2020/21 financial year.

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the report be received;
- (ii) That the Annual Governance Statement in respect of the 2020/21 financial year, as set out in Section 1 of the 2020/21 Annual Governance and Accountability Return, is approved; and
- (iii) That the Annual Governance Statement is signed off by the Town Clerk and the Chairman of the Council.

39. APPROVAL OF THE 2020/21 ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

A report was submitted requesting that the Council approve the Council's Accounting Statements for the 2020/21 financial year, as set out in Section 2 of the 2020/21 Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the 2020/21 Accounting Statements set out in Section 2 of the Annual Return, are approved.
- (iii) That the supporting financial documents to be submitted to the external auditors with the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, are approved.
- (iv) That the Annual Governance and Accountability Return and supporting documents are sent to the external auditor on Thursday 17th June, following their approval.
- (v) That the unaudited Annual Governance and Accountability Return is published on the Council website on Thursday 17th June.
- (vi) That the thirty-day public inspection period in relation to the statement of accounts commences on Friday 18th June, running until Thursday 29th July.
- (vii) That notice of the publication of the accounts and the public inspection rights and period will be advertised on the Council website on Thursday 17th June and in the Newton News on Friday 18th June.
- (viii) That following the completion of the external audit by Mazars LLP, and receipt of the signed audit opinion and certificate, the Annual Governance and Accountability Return will be published in accordance with the statutory framework.

40. OUTSIDE BODIES

Reports were given by representatives on the undermentioned Outside Bodies:-

- (a) Youth Council
There had been no meeting.
- (b) County Durham Association of Local Councils
There had been no meeting. Councillor Arun M. Chandran requested that if members have anything to put forward for consideration at future meetings to forward them to himself or the Town Clerk.
- (c) Aycliffe Village Hall Association
There had been no meeting.
- (d) Woodham Village Community Association
There had been no meeting.

- (e) Great Aycliffe and Middridge Local Councils' Committee
Councillor Arun. M. Chandran had forwarded a written report on the meeting and requested that if members had any questions or anything to put forward for consideration at future meetings to forward them to himself or the Town Clerk.
- (f) Larger Local Councils' Forum
There had been no meeting.
- (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.