

## COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 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 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021** at **7.15 p.m.**

### PRESENT

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

Councillors Eddy Adam, Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Jim Atkinson, Dorothy Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, John Clark, Bob Fleming, George Gray, Ian Gray, Brian Haigh, Phillip Hawkins, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, Joanne Jones, Neville Jones, John Moore, Carl Robinson, Ken Robson, and Michael Stead.

### OFFICERS

Mr. D. Austin (Town Clerk)

Mrs. S. Stretch (Senior Administration Officer)

*The Chairman advised that the Durham County Council officers who had been invited to the meeting to discuss the Aycliffe Village Green encroachment issue were unable to attend. The officers will be invited to attend a future meeting of the Environment Committee.*

### 71. NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

### 72. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Peter Bergg, Neil Collinson, Kate Hopper, Andrea Miller, and Maureen Shelton.

### 73. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

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

### 74. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There had been no declarations of interest submitted.

### 75. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

### 76. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Arun M. Chandran seconded by Councillor George Gray and

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **77. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor submitted a list of appointments which had been attended for the period up to 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

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

## **78. COMMITTEE MINUTES**

### **(a) Environment Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft, seconded by Councillor Ken Robson and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- i) that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021 be received
- ii) that the said minutes be approved and adopted.

### **(b) Recreation Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor George Gray, seconded by Councillor Brian Haigh and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- i) that the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021 be received
- 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 Eddy Adam and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- i) that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 be received
- ii) that the said minutes be approved and adopted.

## **79. A167 PROPOSED 50MPH SPEED LIMIT AND ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME CONSULTATION**

Correspondence had been received from Durham County Council outlining proposed walking and cycling improvements along the A167 and requesting comments from the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Carl Robinson that the Town Council formally respond to the consultation with the suggestion that the proposed speed limit is reduced from 50mph to 40mph from the junction of Durham Road to the start of the 30mph zone in Aycliffe Village.

Councillor Bob Fleming raised his concerns regarding the proposed development at Low Copelaw with access and egress issues.

It was further proposed by Councillor Jed Hillary that the response also requests that a 40mph speed limit is included for the A167 on the southern side of Aycliffe Village from the end of the 30mph zone to the Millennium Way roundabout.

Councillor Tony Armstrong requested that consideration is given is extending the 40mph zone to begin from the Gretna Green pub.

Councillor Michael Stead offered to speak to the Durham County Council officers and pass on the views of Town Councillors.

After further discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Carl Robinson, and seconded by Councillor Bob Fleming and

**RESOLVED** – that:

- i) the correspondence from Durham County Council regarding the proposed walking and cycling improvements along the A167 be received; and
- ii) the Town Clerk submit a response to Durham County Council incorporating all Councillors suggestions.

**80. NOTICE OF MOTION**

Councillor Bob Fleming submitted the following Notice of Motion which was seconded by Councillor Arun M. Chandran:

*‘That a letter of thanks be sent to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints commending its young people for their efforts in planting trees and picking litter at Moore Lane.’*

Councillor Arun M. Chandran proposed an amendment, which was seconded by Councillor Eddy Adam, as follows:

*‘That a letter of thanks be sent to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints commending its young people for their efforts in planting trees and picking litter at Moore Lane, and that officers are requested to investigate a Council Recognition and Awards Scheme and report back to the Policy and Resources Committee with an outline scheme including any financial implications.’*

A vote was carried out on the amendment which was passed by a majority decision.

A vote was carried out on the substantive motion and was passed by a majority decision.

**RESOLVED** – that:

- i) a letter of thanks be sent to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints commending its young people for their efforts in planting trees and picking litter at Moore Lane,
- ii) that officers are requested to investigate a Council Recognition and Awards Scheme and report back to the Policy and Resources Committee with an outline scheme including any financial implications.

## 81. 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**  
Councillor Arun M. Chandran had attended the annual meeting and gave an update report. The meeting papers were available if any Members wished to read them.
- (c) **Aycliffe Village Hall Association**  
Councillor Jim Atkinson advised that he wished to step down from this role as the meetings coincide with other events. It was agreed that the appointment of a replacement representative would be added to the agenda for the next meeting.
- (d) **Woodham Village Community Association**  
There had been no meeting and Councillor Michael Stead advised that meetings have been postponed until 2022.
- (e) **Great Aycliffe and Middridge Local Councils' Committee**  
There had been no meeting.
- (f) **Larger Local Councils' Forum**  
There had been no meeting.
- (g) **Newton Aycliffe Bus Preservation Society**  
Councillor Ian Gray delivered 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**  
This agenda item requested the appointment of a replacement representative to this outside body.

It was proposed by Councillor Arun M. Chandran, seconded by Councillor George Gray that Councillor Brian Haigh be appointed as representative.

It was further proposed by Councillor Eddy Adam, seconded by Councillor Jed Hillary that Councillor John Clark be appointed as representative.

A vote then took place with the following result:

Councillor Brian Haigh – 10 votes  
Councillor John Clark – 9 votes

**RESOLVED** – that Councillor Brian Haigh be the nominated representative for the Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway.

- (j) **Western Area Partnership**  
Councillor Martin Ashcroft has been unable to attend these meetings due to ongoing IT issues. Councillor George Gray has not been informed of the meeting dates. It was agreed that the Town Clerk will investigate the reasons for this issue.

**CHAIRMAN.**