

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 24th NOVEMBER 2021

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 24th NOVEMBER 2021 at 7.15 p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillor Martin Ashcroft (Chairman) and
Councillors Eddy Adam, Jim Atkinson, Peter Bergg, Dorothy Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, Barbara Clare, John Clark, Neil Collinson, Bob Fleming, George Gray, Ian Gray, Phillip Hawkins, Jed Hillary, Kate Hopper, Joanne Jones, Neville Jones, Carl Robinson, Ken Robson, and Michael Stead

OFFICERS

Mr D. Austin (Town Clerk)
Mrs C.A. Walton (Corporate and Policy Officer)
Mr S. Cooper (Works and Environment Manager)
Mr L. Williams (Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator)
Miss A. Donald (Town Clerk's PA)

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Tony Armstrong

63. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Brian Haigh, Sandra Haigh, Wendy Hillary, Andrea Miller, John Moore, and Maureen Shelton.

64. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

No applications for dispensations had been received.

65. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

66. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

67. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Ken Robson, seconded by Councillor Carl Robinson, and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee, held on 13th October 2021, be confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

68. ALLOTMENT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTES

The Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator submitted the notes of the Allotments Annual General Meeting for members' consideration

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

69. 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 14th November 2021.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the report be received

70. CEMETERIES REPORT

The Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator submitted a report giving information regarding burials and grants of grave space and providing an update on issues relating to the cemeteries for the six-week period ended 14th November 2021.

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

71. LORRY PARK ISSUES

The Town Clerk and Works and Environment Manager submitted a report regarding ongoing issues of misuse of the lorry park and providing information in relation to the legal restrictions and covenant in place relating to this land.

Following a lengthy discussion it was proposed by Councillor Arun M. Chandran, seconded by Councillor Bob Fleming and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report be received.
- ii) The Town Clerk liaise with Homes England (formerly known as the Homes and Communities Agency) regarding removal of the allowance within the covenant on the land for lorries and goods vehicles to park at the site.
- iii) Officers investigate the costs of installing a metal height restriction barrier at the entrance to the lorry park.
- iv) Officers investigate the costs of installing a chemical toilet on the site.
- v) Use of the site as a lorry park be retained and kept under review.

It was further proposed by Councillor Jed Hillary, seconded by Councillor Bob Fleming, and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) Officers investigate the possibility of signage indicating the permitted usage of the lorry park.
- ii) Officers investigate the possibility of CCTV coverage for the lorry park.

72. THERMAL HEAT TREATMENT FACILITY PLANNING APPLICATION UPDATE

The Corporate and Policy Officer submitted a report requesting members to consider a draft objection from ELG Planning in relation to a planning application for a high temperature thermal treatment facility. The objection would be presented at the Durham County Council Planning Meeting on behalf of the Town Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Arun M. Chandran, seconded by Councillor Jed Hillary and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) Thanks be recorded to the Corporate and Policy Officer, staff and ELG Planning for their work on the objection to the thermal heat treatment facility planning application.
- ii) The date and time of the Durham County Council Planning Meeting be notified to all members when this was available.
- iii) ELG Planning be requested to incorporate mention of the cumulative effect of emissions from other sites within the parish.

73. AYCLIFFE VILLAGE GREEN FOOTPATH ENCROACHMENT

The Town Clerk submitted a report updating members on the current situation with regard to the installation of a footpath in Aycliffe Village by Durham County Council which had resulted in encroachment onto one of the registered village greens.

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

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report be received.
- ii) The Town Clerk send a letter to local residents to ascertain their views on the retention of the path in its present form. It was agreed that the hundred residences nearest the path be canvassed.

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

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The Council recognises it has discretion on enforcement and will await the outcome of the consultation with local residents.
- ii) The installation of a safety handrail be investigated, in consultation with the Town Clerk and County Councillors, regarding the most appropriate method for doing so.

Chairman