

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 13th JULY 2022

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 13th JULY 2022 at 7.15 p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillor Phillip Hawkins (Chairman) and
Councillors Eddy Adam, Tony Armstrong, Lindsey Aston, Jim Atkinson, Dorothy Bowman, Arun M Chandran, John Clark, Bob Fleming, George Gray, Ian Gray, Brian Haigh, Joanne Jones, Neville Jones, John Moore, Carl Robinson, Ken Robson, Michael Stead, Anne Woodward and John Woodward

OFFICERS

Mr Dan Austin (Town Clerk)
Miss Amanda Donald (Corporate and Policy Officer)
Mr Steve Cooper (Works and Environment Manager)
Mr Lee Williams (Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator)

20. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Martin Ashcroft, Andy Hill, Jed Hillary and Wendy Hillary.

21. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

No applications for dispensations had been received.

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

23. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

24. MINUTES

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

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee, held on 1st June 2022, which had already been circulated, be received.

25. PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Bob Fleming, seconded by Councillor Eddy Adam, and

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Sub-Committee, held on 4th July 2022, be confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

26. ALLOTMENTS REPORT

The Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator submitted a report updating members on issues relating to the Council's allotments for the six-week period ended 3rd July 2022.

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

27. NEWTON AYCLIFFE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION – RELOCATION OF TEACHING PLOT

The Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator submitted a report asking members to consider an application from Aycliffe Beekeepers' Association to relocate their second teaching plot to an alternative location within the site at St Oswald's allotments.

It was proposed by Councillor Arun M. Chandran, seconded by Councillor Bob Fleming, that:

- i) The report be received.
- ii) Officers consult with other allotment and pigeon plot holders regarding the proposal and report back to the committee.

It was further proposed by Councillor Eddy Adam, seconded by Councillor Joanne Jones, that officers consult with other allotment and pigeon plot holders, without the requirement to report back to the committee.

Councillor Arun M. Chandran accepted this proposal, provided that agreement could be reached with other plot holders.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report be received.
- ii) The request to relocate the teaching plot be agreed, subject to officers consulting with and reaching agreement with the other allotment and pigeon plot holders at St Oswald's Allotments.

28. GREAT AYCLIFFE GARDENERS' GUILD – COMPOSTING TOILET

The Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator submitted a report asking members to consider an application from Great Aycliffe Gardener's Guild to install a composting toilet on the Clarence Chare allotments site.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor John Clark, seconded by Councillor Eddy Adam, that the item be deferred pending further investigation and a visit to an allotment site with an established composting toilet.

It was further proposed by Councillor Arun M. Chandran, seconded by Councillor Carl Robinson, that the request for a composting toilet be refused.

A vote was taken in favour of deferring the request pending further investigation and a visit to an established site with the following result:

For:	11
Against:	8

RESOLVED: that it be recommended that:

- i) The report be received.
- ii) The request to install a composting toilet at Clarence Chare Allotments by the Great Aycliffe Garden Guild be deferred pending further investigation and a site visit.

29. 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 3rd July 2022.

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

30. 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 3rd July 2022.

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

31. ANNUAL GARDEN AND ALLOTMENTS COMPETITION

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report updating members regarding the annual garden and allotment competition and awards and requesting consideration of the suggested prize fund for the competition.

It was proposed by Councillor Arun M. Chandran, seconded by Councillor Tony Armstrong that:

- i) The report be received.
- ii) The prize funds be agreed as per officers' recommendations.
- iii) The category for 'Best Front Garden' be changed to 'Best Garden Visibly on Show'.

Councillor Eddy Adam wished to have it recorded in the minutes that he felt that any changes to the categories should be referred back to a future committee for consideration.

A vote was taken on the proposal to change the category for Best Front Garden' be changed to 'Best Garden Visibly on Show' with the following result:

For:	16
Against:	0
Abstention:	1

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report be received.
- ii) The prize funds be agreed as per officers' recommendations.
- iii) The category for 'Best Front Garden' be changed to 'Best Garden Visibly on Show'.

32. USE OF ASH DIEBACK CAPITAL BUDGET

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report requesting members to consider using the budget carried forward from the saving on the 2021/22 Ash Dieback Tree Works budget to fund additional training and purchase equipment to aid the future management of trees by works operatives.

It was proposed by Councillor Arun Chandran and seconded by Councillor Carl Robinson, and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report be received.
- ii) The proposed investment in equipment and additional training be funded from the Ash Tree Dieback Works and Capital Budget, including the £5,000 carried forward from 2021/22.

33. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW

The Corporate and Policy Officer submitted a report requesting members to consider postponing a decision on conducting a review of the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan pending further information forthcoming from emerging national legislation later this year or early 2023.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report be received.
- iii) The decision on conducting a review of the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan be postponed pending further information from emerging national legislation later this year or early 2023.

34. CLINICAL AND HAZARDOUS WASTE INCINERATOR – PLANNING APPEAL

The Corporate and Policy Officer submitted a report updating members regarding the planning appeal for the construction and operation of a high temperature thermal treatment facility for clinical and hazardous waste on land north of Hitachi, Aycliffe Business Park.

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

Chairman