

FULL COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2022 – 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 2ND NOVEMBER 2022** at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor Ken Robson (Chairman)

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

OFFICERS

Mr. Dan Austin (Town Clerk)

Mr. Andy Clark (Sports Complex Manager)

Mrs. Sharna Stretch (Senior Administration Officer)

A short presentation ceremony was held before the start of the meeting, at which the Mayor, Councillor Ken Robson presented local resident, Mr Brian Nichol with a Community Recognition Scheme Certificate and Local Hero Medal in recognition of his charitable fundraising achievements.

75. NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

76. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Wendy Hillary and Kate Hopper.

77. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

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

78. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

79. GUEST SPEAKER

Heather Orton from Durham County Council Regeneration, Economy and Growth and Mark Jackson from Durham County Council Transport gave a presentation to the Council on the 'Levelling Up Fund' bid for Newton Aycliffe.

There followed a question-and-answer session which discussed improving the town centre area, local travel links, toilet provision and community spaces.

There followed an adjournment at 7.55pm

The meeting resumed at 8pm.

80. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

81. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft, and seconded by Councillor Jim Atkinson and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 28th September 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

82. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor submitted a list of appointments for the period 21st September to 26th October 2022 for information.

The Town Clerk updated members on the replacement of the offices flat roof which had now commenced.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

83. COMMITTEE MINUTES

(a) Recreation Committee

It was proposed by Councillor George Gray, and seconded by Councillor Carl Robinson and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) that the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 19th October 2022 be received, and
- (ii) that the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(b) Environment Committee

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

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 19th October 2022 be received, and
- (ii) that the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(c) Policy and Resources Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Arun Chandran and seconded by Councillor Ken Robson that the minutes be agreed subject to the following amendment:

‘That Minute 62 – the 2023/24 Draft Policy and Resources Revenue and Capital Budgets - Appendix 2 Savings Proposals - Works Overtime £823 for Opening and Closing the Council Offices for Political Group Meetings - be rescinded’.

The Town Clerk clarified the position regarding Standing Order 15 (d) which states that *‘with the exception of those matters dealt with under delegated powers, all decisions made by the Committees are subject to confirmation by the Council’*.

This Standing Order requires committee recommendations to be ratified by Full Council.

There followed a debate on the matter.

Councillor Michael Stead requested a named vote.

A named vote was taken with the following results:

For (13):

Martin Ashcroft
Peter Bergg
Dorothy Bowman
Arun Chandran
Neil Collinson
George Gray
Brian Haigh
Sandra Haigh
Phillip Hawkins
Andy Hill
John Moore
Carl Robinson
Ken Robson

Against (15):

Eddy Adam
Tony Armstrong
Lindsey Aston
Jim Atkinson
John Clark
Bob Fleming
Ian Gray
Jed Hillary
Joanne Jones
Neville Jones
Sandra Kirkby
Andrea Miller
Michael Stead
Anne Woodward
John Woodward

The proposal therefore failed.

It was proposed by Councillor Michael Stead, and seconded by Councillor Jed Hillary and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 26th October 2022 be received, and
- (ii) that the said minutes be approved and adopted.

84. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEE VACANCIES

It was proposed that the following members be appointed to vacant committee positions:

Councillor Sandra Kirby be appointed to the Liberal Democrat group vacancies on both the Environment and Recreation Committees.

Councillor Andrea Miller be appointed to the Liberal Democrat group vacancy on the Policy and Resources Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Arun Chandran and seconded by Councillor Bob Fleming and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) that Councillor Sandra Kirby be appointed to the Liberal Democrat group vacancies on both the Environment and Recreation Committees.
- (ii) that Councillor Andrea Miller be appointed to the Liberal Democrat group vacancy on the Policy and Resources Committee.

85. NOTICE OF MOTION

The following Notice of Motion was submitted by Councillor Arun Chandran and seconded by Councillor Ken Robson for Members' consideration:

"To consider the following Special Motion in accordance with Standing Order 11a)

This Council recognises the failings of the Proportional Representation System introduced at the AGM in May this year (Minute 12 Full Council 18th May refers)

a) That Full Council Minute 12 of 18th May 2022 be rescinded forthwith and that Standing Order 15 and 16 is updated to reflect this.

b) In accordance with Standing Order 5x) the Constitution of Committees shall be as follows:

b i) Environment Committee shall consist of (26 Members+ Mayor* and Deputy Mayor** as ex officio)

That Councillors Peter Bergg, Neil Collinson and Sandra Haigh be added to this Committee

b ii) Recreation Committee shall consist of (26 Members+ Mayor* and Deputy Mayor** as ex officio)

That Councillors Peter Bergg, Neil Collinson and Brian Haigh be added to this Committee

b iii) Policy and Resources Committee shall consist of (26 Members+ Mayor* and Deputy Mayor** as ex officio)

That Councillors Peter Bergg, Neil Collinson and Phillip Hawkins be added to this Committee"

A lengthy debate took place.

Councillor Joanne Jones spoke in favour of her original motion at the Annual Meeting of the Council to introduce the system of proportional representation for allocating places on committees, sub committees and working groups.

Councillor Eddy Adam spoke in favour of the system of Proportional Representation in general but stated that it was not possible in the current situation.

The Town Clerk clarified the position regarding the allocation of places to Independent Councillors under a proportional representation system.

Councillor Arun Chandran requested a vote.

A vote was carried out with the following results:

For: 15

Against: 12

Abstention: 1

The motion was carried.

RESOLVED – as follows:

(i) That Full Council Minute 12 of 18th May 2022 be rescinded forthwith and that Standing Order 15 and 16 is updated to reflect this.

(ii) In accordance with Standing Order 5x) the Constitution of Committees shall be as follows:

Environment Committee shall consist of (26 Members+ Mayor* and Deputy Mayor** as ex officio)

That Councillors Peter Bergg, Neil Collinson and Sandra Haigh be added to this Committee.

Recreation Committee shall consist of (26 Members+ Mayor* and Deputy Mayor** as ex officio)

That Councillors Peter Bergg, Neil Collinson and Brian Haigh be added to this Committee.

Policy and Resources Committee shall consist of (26 Members+ Mayor* and Deputy Mayor** as ex officio)

That Councillors Peter Bergg, Neil Collinson and Phillip Hawkins be added to this Committee.

86. SPORTS COMPLEX TELEVISIONS

The Sports Complex Manager submitted a report for Members to consider the best option for Phase 4 of the Sports Complex large screen television upgrade project, as referred from the Recreation Committee Meeting on Wednesday 19th October 2022.

It was proposed by Councillor Jed Hillary and seconded by Councillor Lindsey Aston and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) the report be received;
- (ii) that 'Option 1 – Purchase a television to be placed in the Function Room' be agreed; and
- (iii) that a Toshiba Fire 65-inch smart 4k TV at £434.63 and wall bracket at £33.33 be purchased at a total cost £467.96

87. OUTSIDE BODIES

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

(a) Youth Council

There had been no meeting. Councillor Tony Armstrong suggested that the Council should try to keep the Youth Council going and was disappointed with the decision to remove the budget provision at the Policy and Resources Committee Meeting.

(b) County Durham Association of Local Councils

There had been no meetings.

(c) Aycliffe Village Hall Association

Councillor Neville Jones had not attended the meeting but advised members that the Town Clerk has the minutes available upon request.

(d) Woodham Village Community Association

Councillors Michael Stead and Lindsey Aston were concerned that they had not received any invitation to attend meetings. There followed a discussion on the issue. It was requested that Officers again contact Woodham Village Community Association representatives to confirm future meeting dates.

(e) Great Aycliffe and Middridge Local Councils' Committee

There had been no meeting.

(f) Larger Local Councils' Forum

There had been no meeting.

(g) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society

Councillor Ian Gray gave an update report. Councillor Tony Armstrong wished to commend Councillor Gray on his comprehensive and informative reports.

(h) Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway

Councillor Jim Atkinson gave a comprehensive update report.

(i) Western Area Partnership

Councillor Eddy Adam gave an update report.

CHAIRMAN.