

FULL COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 26TH APRIL 2023 – 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 26TH APRIL 2023** at 7.18pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Ken Robson (Chairman)

Councillors Eddy Adam, Martin Ashcroft, Jim Atkinson, Dorothy Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, John Clark, Neil Collinson, Bob Fleming, Ian Gray, Brian Haigh, Sandra Haigh, Andy Hill, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, Joanne Jones, Neville Jones, Sandra Kirby, John Moore, Carl Robinson, Anne Woodward and John Woodward.

OFFICERS

Mr. Dan Austin (Town Clerk)
Mrs. Tracey Woodhead (Finance Manager)
Mrs. Sharna Stretch (Senior Administration Officer)

Prior to the meeting, the Mayor presented certificates to the St Oswald's Pre-School staff in recognition of their excellent achievement in gaining an Outstanding OFSTED inspection result.

IN ATTENDANCE

One member of the public.

131. NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

132. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tony Armstrong, Lindsey Aston, Peter Bergg, George Gray, Phillip Hawkins and Michael Stead,

133. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

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

134. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Arun Chandran, John Woodward and Ian Gray declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 13 – Community Recognition and Award Scheme Nomination.

135. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A member of the public spoke in support of the nomination for the Community Recognition and Award Scheme.

136. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Arun Chandran, and seconded by Councillor Andy Hill and;

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 15th March 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

137. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor submitted a list of appointments for the period 9th March to 19th April 2023 for information.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

138. COMMITTEE MINUTES

(a) Recreation Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Carl Robinson, and seconded by Councillor Eddy Adam and;

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- i) that the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 12th April 2023 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 Neil Collinson and;

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- i) that the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 12th April 2023 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 Eddy Adam and;

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- i) that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 19th April 2023 be received, and
- ii) that the said minutes be approved and adopted.

139. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS UPDATE

The Finance Manager had submitted a report setting out the annual update of the Financial Regulations of the Council which formed part of the overall framework of the Scheme of Administration and Standing Orders.

It was proposed by Councillor Jed Hillary, and seconded by Councillor Jim Atkinson and;

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- i) that the report be received.
- ii) that the amendments to the Financial Regulations be approved prior to them being formally adopted at the Annual General Meeting of the Council on the 17th May 2023.

140. STANDING ORDERS – CONTRACTS AND PROCUREMENT

The Finance Manager had submitted a report setting out the annual update of the Standing Orders for Contracts and Procurement which formed part of the overall framework of the Council's Standing Orders to be formally adopted at the Annual General Meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Jim Atkinson, and seconded by Councillor Eddy Adam and;

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- i) that the report be received.
- ii) that the amendments to the Standing Orders for Contracts and Procurement be approved prior to them being formally adopted at the Annual General Meeting of the Council on the 17th May 2023.

141. OUTSIDE BODIES

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

- (a) **Youth Council**
Councillor Tony Armstrong had circulated a written update report.
- (b) **County Durham Association of Local Councils**
There had been no meeting.
- (c) **Aycliffe Village Hall Association**
Councillor Neville Jones had attended a meeting and the minutes had been circulated.
- (d) **Woodham Village Community Association**
Councillors Lindsey Aston and Michael Stead attended the AGM and the minutes had been circulated.
- (e) **Great Aycliffe and Middridge Local Councils' Committee**
There had been no meetings.

- (f) **Larger Local Councils' Forum**
There had been no meetings.
- (g) **Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society**
Councillor Ian Gray gave an update report.
- (h) **Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway**
Councillor Jim Atkinson gave an update report.
- (i) **Western Area Partnership**
Councillor Ken Robson gave an update report.

142. EXEMPT BUSINESS

It was proposed by Councillor Arun Chandran, and seconded by Councillor Ken Robson and;

RESOLVED – that it was in the opinion of the Council that due to the confidential nature of the following item, it was advisable to exclude the press and public.

143. COMMUNITY RECOGNITION AND AWARDS SCHEME NOMINATIONS

A report was submitted from the Town Clerk for members to consider a nomination received under the Council's Community Recognition and Awards Scheme.

The Chairman spoke about the nominee and added that this award is an ideal way to encourage this type of voluntary work in the community.

Councillor Ian Gray also spoke about the nominee and their contribution to improving the town, including work at Byerley Park nature reserve, tree planting and litter picking.

It was proposed by Councillor Jim Atkinson, and seconded by Councillor John Clark and;

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- i) that the report be received;
- ii) that the nominee identified in item 3.1(a) receive approval for an award.
- iii) that a medal and a certificate be presented by the Mayor at the nominees' home.

144. RE-ADMISSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Arun Chandran, seconded by Councillor Jim Atkinson and;

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the press and public be readmitted to the meeting.

CHAIRMAN.