

## **FULL COUNCIL**

**WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2023 – 7.00 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 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2023 at 7.00 p.m.**

### **PRESENT**

#### **Councillor Carl Robinson (Chairman)**

Councillors Tony Armstrong, Lindsey Aston, Jim Atkinson, Peter Bergg, Arun M. Chandran, John Clark, Neil Collinson, George Gray, Ian Gray, Brian Haigh, Phillip Hawkins, Andy Hill, Jed Hillary, Neville Jones, Brian McAnaney, John Moore, Ken Robson, Michael Stead, Anne Woodward and John Woodward.

### **OFFICERS**

Mr. D. Austin (Town Clerk)  
Miss. A. Donald (Corporate and Policy Officer)  
Mrs. S. Stretch (Senior Administration Officer)

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Three members of the public.

### **79. NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

### **80. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Eddy Adam, Martin Ashcroft, Dorothy Bowman, Sandra Haigh, Wendy Hillary, Simon Hocking, Joanne Jones, Sandra Kirby and Anita Sparrow.

### **81. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

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

### **82. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Carl Robinson had a non-disclosable pecuniary interest on Agenda Item 11 as he had requested the picnic bench on behalf of Aycliffe Village Residents Association.

### **83. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

## 84. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Andy Hill, and seconded by Councillor Ken Robson and;

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and the minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## 85. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor provided a list of his appointments for the period from the 14<sup>th</sup> September to the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

The Mayor advised that there are now two Rotary organisations in Newton Aycliffe. They are: Rotary Newton Aycliffe and Rotary Great Aycliffe.

The Mayor read out a message sent on behalf of 'Tidy Ted' and the Great Aycliffe Tidy Team and there followed with a presentation to Councillor Ian Gray from the 'Around Town' Aycliffe Radio presenters Councillors Phillip Hawkins and Andy Hill in recognition of his hard work and dedication of Councillor Gray and the Tidy Team in keeping the town tidy.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- i) that the announcements be received.

## 86. COMMITTEE MINUTES

### (a) Recreation Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Jed Hillary, and seconded by Councillor Andy Hill; and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- i) that the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023 be received, and
- ii) that the minutes and recommendations be approved and adopted.

### (b) Environment Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Ian Gray, and seconded by Councillor Andy Hill; and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- i) that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023 be received, and
- ii) that the minutes and recommendations be approved and adopted.

**(c) Policy and Resources Committee**

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

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- i) that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023 be received, and
- ii) that the minutes and recommendations be approved and adopted.

**87. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES**

It was requested that the Council consider appointing to the vacancies on the following committees:

Environment Committee	One Vacancy
Recreation Committee	One Vacancy
Policy and Resources Committee	Two Vacancies

Councillor Arun M. Chandran proposed that Councillor Brian McAnaney be appointed the vacancies on all three Committees and that Councillor Phillip Hawkins be appointed to the additional vacancy on the Policy and Resources Committee. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Ken Robson.

The proposal was agreed by members.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- i) that Councillor Brian McAnaney is appointed to the vacancy on the Environment Committee.
- ii) that Councillor Brian McAnaney is appointed to the vacancy on the Recreation Committee.
- iii) that Councillors Brian McAnaney and Phillip Hawkins are appointed to the vacancies on the Policy and Resources Committee.

**88. APPOINTMENT OF CDALC PRESIDENT**

The Town Clerk submitted a request from the County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) requesting the Council to consider making a nomination for the vacant position of President of the association.

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

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- i) that the request be received; and
- ii) that the Council endorse the nomination of Mary Foy MP to the position of President of CDALC.

## 89. INSTALLATION OF PICNIC BENCH AT AYCLIFFE VILLAGE PARK

The Town Clerk submitted a request from Aycliffe Village Residents Association (AVRA) for the Council to purchase and install a picnic table in Aycliffe Village Park (to be funded in full via a donation from AVRA).

Councillor George Gray stated that the suggested location for the bench is in the wrong place and that the bench needs to be sited nearer to the play area.

It was proposed by Councillor Jed Hillary, and seconded by Councillor Andy Hill; and

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- i) that the report be received; and
- ii) that the purchase and installation of a picnic bench in Aycliffe Village Park be agreed and be funded in full via a donation from Aycliffe Village Residents Association.
- iii) that the bench be sited closer to the play area;

## 90. AYCLIFFE 75 – HISTORY OF A NEW TOWN PROJECT UPDATE

The Corporate and Policy Officer submitted a report to update members on progress towards the production of a series of display boards to portray the history of Newton Aycliffe to commemorate the town's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

Councillor Phil Hawkins advised the Council that the 'Around Town' radio show on Aycliffe Radio (hosted by Councillors Hawkins and Councillor Andy Hill), would like to present a salver/plate to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Newton Aycliffe and requested that members suggest the wording to be engraved onto it. The current suggestion is, "*A small town with a big heart and history of making a difference*". It was advised that Councillors Hawkins and Hill would like to present the salver to the Council at the 13<sup>th</sup> December meeting.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- i) that the report and information be received;

## 91. OUTSIDE BODIES

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

### (a) Youth Council

There had been no meetings. Councillor Tony Armstrong questioned the future of the Youth Council and his role and influence on it. There then followed a lengthy discussion on the past operation of the Youth Council and ideas for its future. It was proposed by Councillor Arun M. Chandran that the Youth Council is included as an agenda item on the next Council Meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Michael Stead.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- i) that a full report on the Youth Council be submitted to the next Council Meeting by the Corporate and Policy Officer.

*Councillor Jim Atkinson left the meeting at this point.*

- (b) County Durham Association of Local Councils**  
Councillor Arun M. Chandran advised members that subscriptions for CDALC and NALC are increasing and had been factored into the 2024/25 Revenue Budget. Councillor Lindsey Aston advised that she was not receiving meeting notifications. The Town Clerk advised that he would contact CDALC to ensure that Councillor Aston received all future meeting invites and correspondence.
- (c) Aycliffe Village Community Association**  
There is no Council representative on this organisation at the present time.
- (d) Woodham Village Community Association**  
There had been no meetings.
- (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 a verbal update.
- (h) Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway**  
Councillor Ian Gray gave a verbal update on Councillor Jim Atkinsons' behalf.
- (i) Western Area Partnership**  
Councillor Ken Robson gave an update and agreed to advise Councillor George Gray of when the meetings are to be held.

**CHAIRMAN.**