

## **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY 31<sup>st</sup> MAY 2023**

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 31<sup>st</sup> MAY 2023 at 7.15pm**

### **PRESENT**

#### **Councillor Phil Hawkins (Chairman) and**

Councillors: Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Jim Atkinson, Peter Bergg, Dorothy Bowman, Arun M Chandran, John Clark, Neil Collinson, Bob Fleming, George Gray, Ian Gray, Brian Haigh, Andy Hill, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, Simon Hocking, Joanne Jones, John Moore, Carl Robinson, Ken Robson, Anita Sparrow, Michael Stead, Anne Woodward and John Woodward.

### **OFFICERS**

Mr D Austin (Town Clerk)

Mr S Cooper (Works and Environment Manager)

Mr L Williams (Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator)

Mrs J Walton (Corporate and Policy Assistant)

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor Sandra Haigh

Mr Peter Roper from the Columbaria Company

One member of the public

### **7. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Eddy Adam, Lindsey Aston, Neville Jones, Sandra Kirby

### **8. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

### **9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest had been received.

### **10. GUEST SPEAKER**

Mr Peter Roper from the Columbaria Company provided a brief presentation about alternative memorials for the cemeteries, highlighting the range of products and services provided and gave Members the opportunity to see some of the porcelain plaques and porcelain and acrylic leaves which can be hung on a memorial tree.

A short discussion was held, where Members asked questions about the ordering process and cost of memorials.

Members thanked Mr Roper for attending the meeting.

## 11. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

## 12. MINUTES

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

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee, held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023, be confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

## 13. ALLOTMENTS REPORT

Members considered a report from the Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator providing an update on issues relating to the allotments for the seven weeks ended 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023.

A discussion was held around the allotment plots which had been identified as in poor condition and the process for terminating tenancies.

The Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator explained that the termination of tenancies was bound by a legal process which took 60 days and that new tenants are allowed 90 days before the termination process can take place.

It was proposed by Councillor Ken Robson seconded by Councillor Jim Atkinson and

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

## 14. ENVIRONMENT REPORT

Members considered a report from the Works and Environment Manager to update Members with issues relating to the environment for the seven weeks ended 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023.

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

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

## 15. CEMETERIES REPORT

Members considered a report from the Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator updating Members on items relating to the cemeteries for the seven weeks ended 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023.

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

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

**Chairman**