

FULL COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH 2024 – 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 13TH MARCH 2024 at 7.00 p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillor Carl Robinson (Chairman)

Councillors Eddy Adam, Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Peter Bergg, Arun M. Chandran, John Clark, Neil Collinson, George Gray, Ian Gray, Brian Haigh, Phillip Hawkins, Joanne Jones, Neville Jones, Sandra Kirby, John Moore, Ken Robson, Michael Stead, Anne Woodward and John Woodward.

OFFICERS

Mr. D. Austin (Town Clerk)

Mrs. T. Woodhead (Finance Manager)

Mrs. S. Stretch (Senior Administration Officer)

IN ATTENDANCE

One member of the public.

124. NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

125. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Lindsey Aston, Jim Atkinson, Dorothy Bowman, Sandra Haigh, Andy Hill, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, Simon Hocking, Brian McAnaney and Anita Sparrow.

126. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

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

127. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

128. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

129. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft, and seconded by Councillor Ken Robson and;

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 31st January 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

130. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor provided a list of appointments for the period from the 25th January to 6th March 2024 and added that there will be charity night at The Phoenix Club on 22nd March at 7pm and a coffee morning at Aycliffe Village Hall on Saturday 23rd March from 10am.

RESOLVED – as follows:

- i) that the announcements be received.

131. COMMITTEE MINUTES

(a) Recreation Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft, and seconded by Councillor Ken Robson; and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- i) that the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 28th February 2024 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 Ken Robson; and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- i) that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 28th February 2024 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 6th March 2024 be received, and
- ii) that the minutes and recommendations be approved and adopted.

132. ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL CONTROL

Members considered a report from the Corporate Management Team, setting out the annual review of the effectiveness of the Council's system of internal control for the 2023/24 financial year for approval.

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

RESOLVED – as follows:

- i) that the annual review of the effectiveness of the Council's system of internal control in respect of the 2023/24 financial year be approved; and
- ii) that the review is taken into account in providing the assurance that the Council requires in order to approve the 2023/24 Annual Governance Statement, as set out in Section 1 of the 2023/24 Annual Governance and Accountability Return later in the year.

133. ANNUAL REVIEW OF RISKS

The Corporate and Policy Officer submitted a report with an overview of the Council's risk management arrangements and attaching a full list of current corporate business risks for the Town Council 2023/24 Financial Year for consideration and approval.

It was proposed by Councillor Arun M. Chandran and seconded by Councillor Martin Ashcroft; and

RESOLVED – as follows;

- i) that the report be received and;
- ii) that the year-end Business Risk Register for the 2023/24 financial year be approved.

134. OUTSIDE BODIES

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

- (a) County Durham Association of Local Councils**
Councillor Arun M. Chandran gave a verbal update and advised that the meeting minutes were available from the Town Clerk.
- (b) Aycliffe Village Community Association**
There is no Council representative on this organisation at the present time.
- (c) Woodham Village Community Association**
There had been no meetings.
- (d) Great Aycliffe and Middridge Local Councils' Committee**
There had been no meetings.
- (e) Larger Local Councils' Forum**
Councillor Arun M. Chandran gave a verbal update and advised that the reports and minutes were available from the Town Clerk. He added that the Town Council had been approached to host the July Meeting and that the request would be presented to the next Council meeting for approval.

(f) **Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society**

Councillor Ian Gray gave a verbal update highlighting the events that had taken place and the events planned for the coming year.

(g) **Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway**

There was no update.

(h) **Western Area Partnership**

Councillor Ken Robson gave a verbal update highlighting a community litter pick that had recently taken place.

135. EXEMPT BUSINESS

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft, 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.

136. 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 from Councillors Arun M. Chandran and Ian Gray.

Councillors Arun M. Chandran and Ian Gray spoke in support of the nominee.

It was proposed by Councillor Peter Bergg, and seconded by Councillor Ken Robson that the nominee receive a community recognition certificate and a medal.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- i) that the report be received;
- ii) that the nominee identified in the report receives a community recognition scheme medal and certificate and is invited to the next Council Meeting to receive the awards.

137. RE-ADMISSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft, seconded by Councillor Ken Robson and;

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

CHAIRMAN