

FULL COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL 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 24TH APRIL 2024** at **7.00 p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillor Carl Robinson (Chairman)

Councillors Eddy Adam, Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Lindsey Aston, Peter Bergg, Dorothy Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, John Clark, Neil Collinson, George Gray, Ian Gray, Brian Haigh, Phillip Hawkins, Andy Hill, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, Sandra Kirby, Brian McAnaney, John Moore, Ken Robson, Anne Woodward and John Woodward.

OFFICERS

Mr. D. Austin (Town Clerk)
Mrs. S. Stretch (Senior Administration Officer)

IN ATTENDANCE

Two members of the public.

Prior to commencement of the meeting, a presentation of a certificate and medal was made to the recipient of the Community Recognition Award, Mr Brian Rendell.

138. NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

139. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Jim Atkinson, Sandra Haigh, Joanne Jones, Neville Jones, Anita Sparrow and Michael Stead.

140. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

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

141. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

142. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

143. 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 13th March 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

144. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor provided a list of appointments for the period 7th March to 16th April 2024. He thanked Councillors and Officers for their co-operation during his term of office.

The Town Clerk announced that a Notice of Vacancy in the Office of Councillor will be published on Friday due to the resignation of Councillor Anita Sparrow.

RESOLVED – as follows:

- i) that the announcements be received.

145. COMMITTEE MINUTES

(a) Recreation Committee

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

RESOLVED – as follows:

- i) that the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 10th April 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 Councillor Andy Hill and;

RESOLVED – as follows:

- i) that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 10th April 2024 be received, and
- ii) that the minutes and recommendations be approved and adopted.

(c) Policy and Resources Committee

Councillor Arun M. Chandran proposed an amendment to Minute 129 to read that the proposal was made *'by Councillor Arun M. Chandran and seconded by Councillor Eddy Adam'*.

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 17th April 2024 be received, and
- ii) that the minutes and recommendations be approved and adopted subject to minute 129 being amended to read *'proposed by Councillor Arun M. Chandran and seconded by Councillor Eddy Adam'*.

146. COUNTY DURHAM ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (CDALC) – REQUEST TO HOST THE LARGER AND SMALLER COUNCIL FORUM MEETINGS

Members considered a request from County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) for the Town Council to host the Larger and Smaller Council Forum Meetings on 18th July 2024 at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex. The cost of the room hire with lunch and refreshments will be funded from the Civic Hospitality budget (with an income to the Sports Complex Budget).

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft and seconded by Councillor Eddy Adam; and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- i) that the Town Council host the Larger and Smaller Council Forum Meetings on 18th July 2024.
- ii) that the cost of the room hire with lunch and refreshments be taken from the Civic Hospitality budget (with an income to the Sports Complex Budget).

147. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS UPDATE

Members considered a report from the Finance Manager setting out the updated Financial Regulations for approval, prior to their formal adoption at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 15th May.

It was proposed by Councillor Arun M. Chandran and seconded by Councillor Eddy Adam; and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- i) that the report and update be received,
- ii) that the proposed changes be agreed and adopted.

148. ANNUAL UPDATE OF THE COUNCIL'S STANDING ORDERS FOR CONTRACTS AND PROCUREMENT

Members considered a report from the Finance Manager setting out the updated Standing Orders for Contracts and Procurement for approval, prior to their formal adoption at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 15th May.

Councillor Arun M. Chandran thanked the Finance Manager for the report.

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

RESOLVED – as follows:

- i) that the report and update be received,
- ii) that the proposed changes be agreed and adopted.

149. OUTSIDE BODY REQUEST – CORNFORTH PARTNERSHIP

Members considered a letter from the Cornforth Partnership requesting the Council appoint a representative to sit on their Board of Trustees.

Councillor Eddy Adam asked for clarification regarding the role.

The Town Clerk clarified that the requested representative was either an advisor or trustee, and added it would be of interest to anyone with a background or interest in youth services. The representative would be working with the partnership to identify possible joint working opportunities with the Town Council in the future.

Following a question from Councillor Lindsey Aston it was further clarified that the request was for one representative, but that it would be clarified with the Partnership following the meeting as to whether a second representative could be considered.

Councillor Eddy Adam proposed that a representative(s) be chosen in a capacity as an advisor rather than a trustee and that appointment of the representative(s) be deferred until the Annual Council Meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Eddy Adam and seconded by Councillor Jed Hillary; and

RESOLVED – as follows;

- i) that the letter be received and;
- ii) that the Cornforth Partnership be added to the list of Outside Bodies and representative(s) be appointed at the Annual Council Meeting.

150. OUTSIDE BODIES

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

- (a) **County Durham Association of Local Councils**
There had been no meeting.
- (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**
There had been no meetings.
- (f) **Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society**
Councillor Ian Gray gave a verbal update.
- (g) **Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway**
Councillor Ian Gray gave a verbal update.
- (h) **Western Area Partnership**
Councillor Ken Robson gave a verbal update.

CHAIRMAN