

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 13TH MAY 2026

(as part of the Annual General Meeting)

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe on Wednesday 13th May 2026.

PRESENT

Councillors: Tunde Akinsanya, Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Lindsey Aston, Jaci Beddard, Tony Beddard, Dorothy Bowman, Richard Burchell, Arun M. Chandran, Chris Clement, Neil Collinson, Luke Ellis, George Gray, Brian Haigh, Andy Hill, Sharon Hutchinson, Sandra Kirby, John Moore, Carl Robinson, Kyle Robinson, Ken Robson, Brian Sowerby, Michael Stead, Tracey Williams, Anne Woodward and John Woodward.

OFFICIALS

Mr. Dan Austin (Town Clerk)
Mrs. Tracey Woodhead (Finance Manager)
Miss. Amanda Donald (Corporate and Policy Officer)
Mrs. Sharna Stretch (Senior Administrative Officer)

IN ATTENDANCE Three members of the public.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Councillor Arun Chandran and seconded by Councillor Tracey Williams, that Councillor Andy Hill be nominated as Chairman of the Environment Committee for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

It was further proposed by Councillor Ken Robson and seconded by Councillor Carl Robinson, that Councillor Richard Hutchinson be appointed as Chairman of the Environment Committee for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

A vote took place with the following results:

Councillor Andy Hill	17 votes
Councillor Richard Hutchinson	9 votes

RESOLVED – that Councillor Andy Hill be appointed Chairman of the Environment Committee for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

Councillor Andy Hill took the Chair for the meeting.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Councillor Arun Chandran and seconded by Councillor Carl Robinson that Councillor Martin Ashcroft be nominated as Vice-Chairman of the Environment Committee for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

RESOLVED – that Councillor Martin Ashcroft be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Environment Committee for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jackie McFadden Lewis and Phill Hawkins.

4. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

There had been no applications for dispensations.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

6. APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEE

The Environment Committee considered the appointment of members to the Planning Sub-Committee:

It was proposed by Councillor Arun Chandran and seconded by Councillor Martin Ashcroft and

RESOLVED – as follows:

(a) Planning Sub-Committee

- (i) That a Planning Sub-Committee be appointed for the Municipal Year 2026/27.
- (ii) That the Planning Sub-Committee comprise of 14 members plus the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio members.
- (iii) That the membership be:

Councillors: Tony Armstrong, Jaci Beddard, Tony Beddard, Richard Burchell, Arun M. Chandran, Chris Clement, Neil Collinson, Luke Ellis, Phill Hawkins, Andy Hill, Carl Robinson, Ken Robson, Brian Sowerby, Michael Stead, Anne Woodward and John Woodward.
- (iv) That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Planning Sub-Committee for the Municipal Year 2026/27 be appointed at its first meeting.

CHAIRMAN.