

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe on **29<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2017** at **7.15 pm**.

**PRESENT:** **Councillor I Gray (Chairman)** and Councillors  
Eddy Adam, M Ashcroft, Jim Atkinson, Derek G Atkinson,  
P J Bergg, Bill Blenkinsopp, Mrs D Bowman, Arun M Chandran,  
J D Clare, J Clark, Mrs M Dalton, R S Fleming, George C Gray,  
B Hall, Dave Hardaker, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, Kate Hopper,  
M Iveson, Mrs S J Iveson, Mrs V M Raw, Ken Robson and  
Paul Symons.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor Sally Symons.

**OFFICIALS:** Mr A Bailey (Town Clerk)  
Mr S Cooper (Works and Environment Manager)  
Mrs M J Robinson (Leisure & Environment Assistant)  
Mrs J Thexton (Leisure Manager)  
Mr L Williams (Grounds Maintenance Service Coordinator)

54. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Kathy Beetham, B A Clare and Mrs S Haigh.

55. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

56. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Eddie Adam, Jim Atkinson, J D Clare, Kate Hopper, and Mrs S J Iveson, declared an interest in item No. 12 on the Agenda (Elmfield Site). Councillor George C Gray declared an interest in item No. 8 on the Agenda (Allotments Report).

57. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from members of the public.

58. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R S Fleming, seconded by Councillor M Iveson and

**RESOLVED** - that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

59. **PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE**

It was proposed by Councillor P J Bergg, seconded by Councillor George C Gray and

**RESOLVED** –that the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Sub-Committee held on the 24<sup>th</sup> October, 8<sup>th</sup> November and 21<sup>st</sup> November 2017 be confirmed as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

60. **ALLOTMENTS' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Members were requested to receive the notes of the Allotments' Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, 16th November 2017.

**RESOLVED** - it be recommended that the notes be received.

61. **ALLOTMENTS' REPORT**

Councillor George C Gray declared an interest and left the meeting during discussions on this item.

The Grounds Maintenance Services Coordinator submitted a report for the period ending 19<sup>th</sup> November 2017. The report advised of routine maintenance which had been undertaken as well as applications from tenants to erect sheds.

**RESOLVED** – it be recommended that:

- a) The report be received.
- b) The applications be approved.

Councillor George C Gray returned to the meeting.

62. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report to update members with environment items including storm damage to a mature Ash tree, winter bedding and events which had taken place. The report also updated members on the publicity campaign regarding dog fouling and advised that signs that had been ordered.

**RESOLVED** – it be recommended that:

- a) The report be received.
- b) Staff be commended for the publicity campaign to deter dog fouling on the sports pitches.

63. **CEMETERIES REPORT**

The Grounds Maintenance Services Coordinator submitted a report to update members with burials and grants of grave space.

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

64. **WOODHAM BURN UPDATE**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report which updated members about investigations into the management of Woodham Burn between Stephenson Way and Williamfield Way.

**RESOLVED** – it be recommended that:

- a. The report be received.
- b. Officers contact Durham County Council, Livin and the Environment Agency with a view to hosting a meeting where all Councillors be given the opportunity to discuss the issue of potential flooding of the Burn.

65. **ELMFIELD SITE**

Councillors Eddie Adam, Jim Atkinson, J D Clare, Kate Hopper, and Mrs S J Iveson, declared an interest and left the meeting during discussion on this item.

The Works and Environment Manager's report brought members up to date with discussions that had taken place regarding the former Elmfield School site and requested members to consider the course of action to be followed.

Discussion took place regarding the possibility of a long term lease or transfer of the land to Great Aycliffe Town Council and potential uses for the site.

It was proposed by Councillor R S Fleming, seconded by Councillor M Ashcroft and

**RESOLVED** – it be recommended that:

- a. The report be received.
- b. The Town Council further engages with Durham County Council to seek an agreement over a long term lease or asset transfer regarding the Elmfield School site.
- c. The Town Clerk, together with the Works and Environment Manager, the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Environment Committee, after meeting with the appropriate officers and local members of Durham County Council, prepare a report of potential schemes, costs and particular partnership arrangements.

**CHAIRMAN**