

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **Wednesday 28th MAY 2014** at **7.15 p.m.**

PRESENT **Councillor J D Clare** (Chairman) and
Councillors J Atkinson, B Blenkinsopp, A M Chandran, Mrs
B A Clare, J Clark, N Collinson, Mrs M Dalton, M A Dalton,
R S Fleming, I Gray, G C Gray, Mrs S Haigh, B Hall, K
Henderson, Mrs I Hewitson, J P Hillary, Mrs W P Hillary, M
Iveson Mrs S J Iveson, W Iveson, P Kjenstad and Mrs V M
Raw.

OFFICIALS Mr A Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mr S Cooper (Environment Officer)
Mrs M J Robinson (Leisure & Environment Assistant)
Mrs J Thexton (Leisure Manager)
Mr D Thompson (Works Manager)
Miss J Welch (Golf Manager)

4. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors E Adam, R Bowman, T Twissell and C Wheeler.

5. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

6. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

7. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from the public.

8. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R S Fleming seconded by Councillor Mrs M Dalton and

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 9th April 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

9. **ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

The Works Manager submitted his report for the 7 weeks ended the 18th May 2014. The report detailed inspections and general maintenance to the allotments.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that:-

- (a) the report be received.
- (b) officers investigate methods to limit fly tipping on the sites.

10. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Works Manager and Environment Officer submitted their report for the 7 weeks ended the 18th May 2014. The report updated members on the work being undertaken by volunteer groups as well as burials and vandalism.

The report also gave information about volunteer work carried out, environment events which had taken place and site management.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that the report be received

11. **GRANTS OF GRAVE SPACE**

RESOLVED - that it be noted that the undermentioned grants of grave spaces had been issued:-

West Cemetery

Grave No. I 209	Bernadette Clarke
Grave No. N108	Merlyn Hannant
Grave No. R108	Ralph Gauntlett
Grave No. R109	Trevor Phillips
Grave No. R110	David Priestley
Grave No. R111	Christina Hınca
Grave No. R115	Kirsty Allen and Mark Hughes
Grave No. J68	Brian Edwards
Grave No. I229	Alison Stout

12. **LAND AT BLUEBELL NURSERIES**

Members were asked to consider information from Durham County Council which notified of a request from Houston Commercial Ltd to purchase areas of land at Bluebell Nurseries.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that the sale of land outlined on the plan be agreed on condition that it be used for non-commercial purposes only.

13. **PRE-PLANNING CONSULTATION RE TELECOMMUNICATION MASTS**

Members were asked to consider the undermentioned consultation:

- (a) Proposed alterations to an existing telecommunications radio base station installation at Telefonica Site 34850 – Alterations to an existing telecommunications streetworks installation located on Dalton Way, Newton Aycliffe.

RESOLVED - that the information be received.

14. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

(1) The Committee considered the undermentioned planning applications:

- (a) Installation of front access ramp and conversion of garage to habitable room – 15 Carwardine Close, Newton Aycliffe.

- (b) The Isles Wind Farm comprising 24 turbines (7 with a maximum tip height of up to 126.5m on land to the north west of the A1(M) and north of Great Isle Farm, 13 with a maximum tip height of up to 101m and 4 with a maximum tip height of up to 115m on land between Mordon and Preston-le-Skerne), 1 permanent 80m high anemometer mast, and associated infrastructure including control building and substation compound, access roads and related engineering works on land near Mordon, Bradbury and Preston-le-Skerne.
- (c) Proposed single storey side extension to replace existing conservatory at 5 St. Andrews Close, Aycliffe Village.

(2) The Council received for information Prior Notification Planning Applications – (for information only)

- (a) Prior Notification of proposed demolition of existing rail bridge at Railway Bridge DAE1/12 to the South of Millennium Way, Aycliffe Business Park.
- (b) Prior Notification for the erection of a conservatory to the rear measuring 3.6 meters in length, 3.3 metres in width and 3 metres in height to the apex of the roof at 15 Bewick Crescent, Newton Aycliffe.

(3) The Council received for information the undermentioned planning applications, prior notice of which has been circulated to all Members of the Council. Durham County Council have been notified of the listed comments on each application:-

- (a) Erection of external inglenook fireplace to the side and replacement windows at 12 High Barn Road, School Aycliffe.
No objections.
- (b) Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 7/2013/0087/DM to alter turning head and substation at Former Tetley Tea Distribution Centre, Grindon Way, Aycliffe Business Park.
No objections.
- (c) Erection to existing car park to provide overspill at The Work Place, Heighington Lane, Aycliffe Business Park.
No objections.
- (d) Erection of single storey rear extension – 17 Bloomsley Close.
No objections.
- (e) Variation of planning permission to infill windows to the retained clock tower – Churchill House, Beveridge Way, Newton Aycliffe. *No objections.*

RESOLVED - that it be recommended:-

- (i) Applications 1 (a) and (c) - no objections.
- (ii) Application 1 (b) – Windfarms - that an objection be made under the following planning regulations:-

- a) The Sedgefield Borough Council saved local plan policies does not allow such a development.
- b) The Durham County Plan, soon to be approved, does not allow such a development.
- c) The windfarm would have an unacceptable and detrimental visual impact on the character and appearance of the surrounding area.
- d) The windfarm would have a very unacceptable landscape/environmental impact on the delicate area of the Carrs and surrounding land.
- e) The windfarm would compromise housing development proposed for Copelaw by the Durham County Plan.
- f) The cumulative impact of this development, added to all the other windfarms in the area, would be excessive.
- g) The Town Council would object to what will amount to an industrialisation of a rural landscape so close to a major town.

(iii) Applications 2 (a) and (b) – that the information be received.

(iv) Applications 3 (a) to (e) - that the information be received.

CHAIRMAN