

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 6th APRIL 2016** at 7.15 pm

PRESENT **Councillor** A M Chandran (Chairman) and
Councillors E Adam, D G Atkinson, J Atkinson,
P J Bergg, B Blenkinsopp, J D Clare, 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,
Mrs I Hewitson, J P Hillary, Mrs W P Hillary, W Iveson,
P Kjenstad and Mrs V M Raw.

OFFICIALS Mr A Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mr S Cooper (Works & Environment Manager)
Mrs M J Robinson (Leisure & Environment Assistant)
Mrs A Watson (Duty Manager)
Miss J Welch (Golf Manager)
Mr L Williams (Grounds Maintenance Service Coordinator)

IN ATTENDANCE Councillor K Robson.
Mr Stuart Timmiss, Head of Planning & Assets at Durham
County Council.

94. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors M Iveson and Mrs S J Iveson.

95. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

96. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor J.D. Clare reaffirmed his interest in agenda item No. 13 as a member of Durham County Council, however, he would remain in the meeting during the discussions thereon.

97. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from the public.

98. **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 24th February 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

99. **ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

The Grounds Maintenance Services Coordinator submitted his report for the period ending 27th March 2016. The report detailed inspections and general maintenance to the allotments.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that the report be received.

100. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted his report for the period ending 27th March 2016. The report updated members on the work being undertaken by volunteer groups, site management and events which had taken place.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that the report be received.

101. **CEMETERIES REPORT**

The Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator submitted his report for the period ending 27th March 2016.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that the report be received.

102. **WORKS AND ENVIRONMENT SERVICE PLAN**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted the annual Service Plan for consideration by members.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that the report be received.

103. **AGNEW WILDFLOWER MEADOW**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report for information regarding the potential development of a new wildflower meadow sites near the northern corner of the new housing development at Woodham/Agnew.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that

- i. the report be received.
- ii. notices be displayed to warn of chemical being used on the area.

104. **AYCLIFFE VILLAGE GREENS**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report regarding damage to the Village Greens at Aycliffe Village.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that

- i. the report be received.
- ii. the situation be monitored and reviewed at a future meeting of the Environment Committee.

105. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – UPDATE**

Mr Timmiss, Head of Planning & Assets at Durham County Council attended the meeting to explain how the County Durham Plan and Great Aycliffe Plan would progress in line with the timetable which had been set. Mr Timmiss advised that there would be no delay to Great Aycliffe Plan in relation to the County Durham Plan.

Mr Timmiss answered members' questions regarding the referendum, the examination process, pre-submission and lead in times required by Durham County Council.

The Corporate and Policy Officer had submitted a written report which updated members on the progress regarding the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan and provided two draft pre-submission documents for information. The Corporate and Policy Officer advised that the dates set out in the report for the different stages to progress the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood plan would now need to be amended.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that:-

- i. the report and information be received.
- ii. thanks be recorded to Mr Timmiss for his attendance.
- iii. the Officers and Thematic Groups be thanked for their work on the Plan.
- iv. the Officer be thanked for presenting a comprehensive and clear report.

106. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

(1) Members were requested to consider the undermentioned planning applications:-

- (a) Demolition of outbuildings, erection of 2no. dwellings – Land to the rear of 5 North Terrace, Aycliffe Village.
- (b) Erection of first floor side extension – 42 Westmorland Way, Newton Aycliffe.
- (c) Erection of single storey rear extension in place of existing conservatory – 21 Windsor Close, Newton Aycliffe.
- (d) Change of use to fast food preparation and delivery service – Unit 4 Thames Centre, Gurney Way, Aycliffe Business Park.

(2) Members were requested to receive for information the undermentioned planning applications, prior notice of which had been circulated to all Members of the Council. Durham County Council had been notified of the listed comments on each application:

- (a) Conversion of Barn and Stables to living accommodation with associated parking and vehicular access – 17 High Street, Aycliffe Village. *No objections.*

- (b) Erection of pitched roof scooter store to front of existing building – 1 Hawkshead Court, Newton Aycliffe. *No objections.*
- (c) Erection of single storey rear extension in place of existing porch – 3 Village Close, Newton Aycliffe. *No objections.*
- (d) Erection of staggered single storey rear extension – 11 The Oaks, Newton Aycliffe. *No objections.*
- (e) Erection of two storey rear extension, 2no. Dormer windows to rear roof slope and conversion of car port to habitable space – 10 Fallow Road, Newton Aycliffe. *No objections.*
- (f) Variation of Condition 2 of planning approval to alter the approved design for converting existing 4no. retail units into library with relocation of customer access – Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. *No objections.*
- (g) Construction of a detached storage facility – Husqvarna UK – Preston Road, Aycliffe Business Park. *No objections*

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that:

Application 1 (a) to (d) no objections.

Applications 2 (a) to (g) - the applications be received.

CHAIRMAN