

Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **MONDAY, 22<sup>nd</sup> JUNE 2015** at **7.15 p.m.**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE** Mr. M. Barnes (Engagement Senior Manager), Mazaars LLP

**OFFICIALS**                Mr. D. Austin (Finance Manager)  
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin. Officer)

31.    **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

32.    **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors J. Atkinson, M.A. Dalton, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson and C. Wheeler.

33.    **MEMBERS' DISPENSATION**

No dispensation requests had been received.

34.    **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest given.

35.    **AUDIT STRATEGY MEMORANDUM 2014/15**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Martin Barnes from Mazaars LLP to present the Audit Strategy Memorandum for 2014/15.

Currently the Auditors were undertaking their audit of the Council which would be completed for Mr. Barnes to present the Audit Completion Report in July 2015.

Mr. Barnes went through various sections of the Memorandum and asked member if they wished him to clarify any items.

**RESOLVED – as follows:**

- (i) That Mr. Barnes be thanked for his attendance to present the Audit Strategy Memorandum 2014/15.
- (ii) That the information from the report be received. and it was
- (iii) That it be noted that the Audit Completion Report for 2014/15 would be presented to the Council in July 2015.

36. **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2014/15**

The Finance Manager submitted a report and the Statutory Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2014/15 for approval.

A discussion took place on the Statement of Accounts and members were given the opportunity to ask questions and the Finance Manager responded appropriately.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the Statement of Accounts for 2014/15 be approved.
- (iii) That the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts be signed by the Chairman of the Council.
- (iv) That the Annual Report included within the Accounts be approved.
- (v) That the Finance Manager be authorised to investigate a full revaluation of the Council's land and building fixed assets for 2015/16.
- (vi) That following the Audit of Accounts by Mazars LLP and receipt of the Audit Completion Report and Annual Audit Letter for 2014/15 the accounts be published in accordance with the statutory framework no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

37. **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2014/15**

The Corporate Management Team submitted a report and the Annual Governance Statement for the 2014/15 financial year for members approval.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the Annual Governance Statement for 2014/15 be approved and signed off by the Town Clerk and the Chairman of the Council.

38. **CASUAL VACANCY**

Information had been submitted of a Casual Vacancy in the Byerley Park, Horndale and Cobblers Hall Ward due to the failure to attend any meetings of the Council or its Committees for a period of six consecutive months by Mrs. A. Palmer.

**RESOLVED** – that appropriate notification and advertising of the Casual Vacancy in the Byerley Park, Horndale and Cobblers Hall Ward be given.

**CHAIRMAN.**