

Minutes of a Meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 4th MARCH 2015 at 7.15 p.m.**

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

OFFICERS Mr. A. Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mrs. C. Walton (Corporate and Policy Officer)
Mr. D. Austin (Finance Manager)
Mrs. J. Swainston (Early Years Officer)
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin. Officer)

92. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors J. Clark, M.A. Dalton, W. Iveson and Mrs. A. Palmer.

93. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

94. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No new declarations of interest had been submitted.

95 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from the public.

96. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor B. Hall, seconded by Councillor E.M. Adam and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 21st January 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

97. **AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE**

It was proposed by Councillor A. Chandran, seconded by Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Audit Sub-Committee held on the 28th January 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

98. **ACCOUNTS CONTROL SHEETS**

Accounts control sheets for the period 16th January to the 20th February 2015 and the General Bank Accounts for January 2015 were submitted.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the accounts control sheets for the period 16th January to the 20th February 2015 and the General Bank Accounts for January 2015 be received.

99. **GRANTS / DONATIONS**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report which gave the current donation budget for this financial year as £4,465.

The following requests had been received:

- ... (a) St. Clare's Foodbank
- ... (b) Durham Miners' Association
- ... (c) Durham County School Benevolent Fund
- ... (d) STEPS 2011
- ... (e) Education Centre for Children with Down Syndrome (ECCDS)

Aycliffe Youth Council

The current Youth Council grant for 2014/15 is £1,452.

The following applications for grants had been received and dealt with for approval by the Policy and Resources Committee:-

- (a) Woodham Golf and Country Club Junior Section - £150
- (b) Durham District Roller Skating Club - No grant given.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) St. Clare's Foodbank
That a donation of £1,000 be made to the Foodbank.
- (iii) Durham Miners' Association
That no donation be given at the current time.
- (iv) Durham County School Benevolent Fund
That a donation of £100 be made to the School Benevolent Fund.
- (v) STEPS 2011
That no donation be made.
- (vi) Education Centre for Children with Down Syndrome (ECCDS)
That a donation of £200 be made to the ECCDS.
- (vii) Woodham Golf and Country Club Junior Section
That the grant of £150 proposed by the Youth Council be approved.
- (viii) Durham District Roller Skating Club
That it be noted that the Youth Council had not given a grant on this occasion to the Skating Club.

100. **PRE-SCHOOL LEARNING CENTRES**

The Early Years Officer had submitted a report to provide the Committee with information regarding the Pre-School Learning Centres.

The report set out attendance figures and the voluntary contribution tables.

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

101. **PRE-SCHOOL BUILDING – ST. OSWALD’S PARK**

The Town Clerk submitted a report seeking members consideration in regard to the opening of a secondary Pre-School Learning Centre located in part of the Pre-School Managers Office located in the Pavilion at St. Oswald’s Park.

The Town Clerk and Early Years Officer had attended a meeting earlier in connection with funding for 2 year olds which could be used to fund the works to the Pavilion.

As the information had only just been presented at this meeting and, the importance of the decision regarding 2 year olds provision, members felt they needed time to consider the new implications further.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the Town Clerk and Early Years Officer prepare a further report giving an update on the new information to hand for discussion at the Council Meeting on the 11th March.

102. **RELOCATION OF DANCE MATS**

The Corporate and Policy Officer submitted a report requesting members to consider the dance mats currently stored at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex being relocated to the Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre owing to the dwindled use of the mats.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the dance mats be relocated to the Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre and the ownership transferred to that body.
- (iii) That persons who had previously used or hired the mats be informed of their new location.

103. **MISSION STATEMENT AND AIMS AND TARGETS REVIEW**

The Corporate and Policy Officer submitted a report to provide members with background information in respect of the Mission Statement and Aims and Targets and the possible creation of a Working Group to review them (Minute No. 132 of Council on the 28th January 2015 referred).

After consideration members agreed that the proposed new Mission Statement be accepted and no Working Group would be required.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the Mission Statement be amended as follows:-

“A proactive and responsive Council, working in partnership, listening to and speaking up for the community, contributing towards making Great Aycliffe an excellent place in which to live for all its residents.”

- (iii) That a Working Group is not now required.

104. **EXCLUSION POLICY**

The Corporate and Policy Officer submitted a report setting out a draft Exclusion Policy and Procedure for members consideration and approval.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the draft Exclusion Policy be approved and adopted.
- (iii) That Officers look to introduce an appropriate Exclusion Policy for the Pre-Schools.

105. **2015/16 FINANCE SERVICE PLAN**

To Finance Manager submitted a report and Service Plan for 2015/16 for members consideration and approval:-

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the Finance Service Plan for 2015/16 be approved.

106. **REMOVAL OF ROAD LIGHTS ON A167 – GREAT AYCLIFFE AREA**

Information had been received from Durham County Council on their proposal to remove street lights in this Council’s area as part of a Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:-

- (i) That Members wished to object strongly on the removal of the street lights on the A167 as proposed by Durham County Council.
- (ii) That the Town Clerk forward an appropriate letter of objection outlining the Council’s concerns.
- (iii) That Mr. R. Hogg (Police Commissioner) be invited to a site visit of the area in question.

107. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

It was proposed by Councillor B. Hall, seconded by Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton and

RESOLVED – that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it was, in the opinion of the Council, advisable that the public and press be excluded from the meeting.

108. **STEPHENSON WAY CEMETERY LEASE**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report to update members in regard to the possible renewal of the Lease at Stephenson Way Cemetery Building to Dignity Funeral Services.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the Lease be renewed for a period of 10 years, with a 5 year break clause.
- (iii) That the District Valuer Service be contacted to establish the new rental value.
- (iv) That Officers be authorised to negotiate future rent increases.
- (v) That the Lease be submitted to the Council's Solicitors for checking and legal updating.
- (vi) That the Town Clerk be authorised to proceed with the negotiations for the rental.

CHAIRMAN.