

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 16th JULY 2014** at **7.15 p.m.**

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

IN ATTENDANCE Mr. Martin Barnes (Senior Audit Manager, Mazars LLP)

OFFICIALS Mr. A. Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mr. A. Austin (Finance Manager)
Mrs. C. Walton (Corporate and Policy Officer)
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin Officer)
Mrs. J. Thexton (Leisure Manager)

49. **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

50. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors W. Blenkinsopp, R. Bowman, Mrs. I. Hewitson, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs. A. Palmer and C. Wheeler.

51. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATION**

No dispensation requests had been received.

52. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There had been no declarations of interest received.

53. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming, seconded by Councillor B. Hall and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on the **11th June 2014** and the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on the **25th June 2014** be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

54. **AUDIT COMPLETION REPORT – 31ST MARCH 2014**

(a) The Chairman welcomed Mr. Martin Barnes, Senior Audit Manager from Mazars LLP, to the meeting to present the Audit Report to the 31st March 2014.

The Auditors had given the Council an unqualified opinion on the financial statements and the Value for Money aspect of the Council.

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That Mr. Barnes be thanked for his attendance to present the Audit Completion Report.
- (ii) That the information from the report be received.
- (iii) That the Finance Team be congratulated on the excellent work carried out in obtaining an unqualified audit opinion.

(b) **APPROVAL OF THE LETTER OF REPRESENTATION**

The Finance Manager submitted a report and a copy of the 'letter of representation' which is required by the Council's external auditors as part of the completion of the annual audit of the Council.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the contents of the letter of representation be approved.
- (ii) That the letter of representation be signed by the Chairman of the Council, Town Clerk and Finance Manager and forwarded to Mazars LLP.
- (iii) That following receipt of the final audit opinion and audit closure certificate being received the notice of the completion of the Audit of the Accounts of the Council be advertised in the local press in accordance with the statutory framework.

55. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions raised by the Public.

56. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

(a) **Environment Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor J.D. Clare, seconded by Councillor E. Adam and

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the minutes of the Environment Committee held on the 2nd July 2014 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(b) **Recreation Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor B. Hall, seconded by Councillor J. Atkinson and

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the minutes of the Recreation Committee held on the 2nd July 2014 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(c) **Policy and Resources Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming, seconded by Councillor J. Atkinson and

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 9th July 2014 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

57. **GREENFIELD COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND SUNNYDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE – PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Copies of a public consultation document from Durham County Council seeking the views on a proposal to enlarge Greenfield Community College from the 1st January 2015 and to close Sunnydale Community College as a separate school on the 31st December 2014.

Members were asked to consider making a suitable response to the consultation.

Councillor J.D. Clare gave background information on the proposed plans which would be to actual enlarge Greenfield School into two sites one Campus at Newton Aycliffe and one Campus at Shildon therefore making for better funding and more expertise in teaching classes.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the Council supports the proposals by Durham County Council.
- (ii) That Parents are given the opportunity to indicate their preference for their children's education at either Greenfield or Sunnydale sites as separate preferences.
- (iii) That the County Council should take into account the new school's funding arrangements now that there are two sites to maintain.
- (iv) That the Council would hope that the County Council would allow appropriate time for the successful results of the amalgamation to become evident.

58. **REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES**

Durham County Council had circulated a document on a review of its polling districts and polling places which was carried out on a five-yearly cycle. The next compulsory review was to be completed by the 31st January 2015.

Members were being asked to make comments on the review with their main emphasis being on the use of schools as polling stations and the disruption this caused to children's education.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the County Council be asked to identify other sites within the township in order that disruption to education be kept to a minimum.
- (ii) That the cost effectiveness of mobile polling stations should be taken into account.

59. **COUNTY DURHAM COMPACT**

Information had been circulated from 'Compact Voice' which is a supporting partnership working to set up relationships between Town and Parish Councils to improve relationships in such areas as involvement in policy design and consultation, funding arrangements (including grants and contracts), promoting equality, ensuring better involvement in delivering services and strengthening independence.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

60. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Clerk made the following announcements:-

NALC – Conference

Following his attendance at the Conference 'Making Localism Work' held in Harrogate on the 10th July 2014 the Town Clerk gave a verbal report on the Conference.

Workshops included information on Forward Planning, Economic Development, Finding Funding and Local Government Finance.

Particular interest had been the Funding and Audit Procurement which will affect the Council in the future

Cutting Loose Event

The Town Clerk had attended the 'Cutting Loose' event held on Tuesday, 15th July at West Park. The event had been well attended and was a success. It had been advised that an alleged incident in regard to an injury to a member of the public and this was being investigated by the event organisers.

Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor had submitted a list of events she had attended for the period 12th June to the 16th July 2014 for information.

The Mayor made a special mention of the educational events she had attended and she had been impressed by the really talented children in Newton Aycliffe.

The 'At Home' on Saturday had been a success and an amount of £239 had been raised for the Mayor's charities.

RESOLVED – that the information provided by the Town Clerk and the Mayor be noted.

61. **OAK LEAF SPORTS COMPLEX BAR ROOF REPLACEMENT**

The Leisure Manager had submitted a report giving an update on the planned 2014/15 asset management works to replace the bar roof at the oak leaf Sports Complex following further advice from the surveyors overseeing the project.

It had been established that two parts of the roof (set out as 2 zones) were now in need to repair and the retained surveyors had completed a tendering process for the two areas of the roof as follows:-

Supplier	Tender Cost	H&J Fees	Contingency	Total Costs
Dufell (Appendix A)	£44,960	£3,000	£1,000	£48,960
Barclays Roofing (Appendix B)	£62,340	£3,000	£1,000	£66,340
Wensley Roofing (Appendix C)	£61,235	£3,000	£1,000	£65,325

The lowest quote is from Dufell at a total cost including professional fees and contingency of £48,960.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That it be agreed that the two areas of the roof at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex be replaced.
- (iii) That Dufell be appointed to carry out the work at a cost of £44,960.
- (iv) That Harrison and Johnson oversee the project at a cost of £3,000.
- (v) That a contingency sum of £1,000 be added to the budget making the total project cost £48,960.
- (vi) That an amount of £24,000 be added to the 2014/15 Capital Programme Budget from earmarked capital reserves to meet the total cost of the works.

62. **LAND SALE – AGNEW 5**

Councillors E. Adam, J.D. Clare and J.P. Hillary left the meeting during the discussion of this item as they had declared pecuniary interests by being members of Durham County Council.

The Town Clerk submitted a report advising members of the opportunity to undertake the sale of an area of unused land owned by the Town Council and advised members of the possible financial implications associated with such a sale. Two alternative options had been set out in the report taking into account the 'clawback' to the Homes and Community Agency (HCA) of some 48% (at the current time) and the 33% contribution to Durham County Council in association with their ownership of a "Ransome Strip".

Members had a lengthy discussion on the best way forward for this Council with the land sale and that they should possibly continue negotiations with Councillors of Durham County Council.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That we continue negotiations at Officer and member level to obtain the best results for this Council.
- (iii) That our County Councillors be asked to pursue the negotiations to the benefit of Newton Aycliffe.
- (iv) That at the current time no decision be made to sell the land on the proposed options.
- (v) That it be noted that the 'Clawback' percentage to HCA was reducing by 2% each year.

Councillors E. Adam, J.D. Clare and J.P. Hillary returned to the meeting.

63. **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Councillor D. Summers asked members to consider granting a leave of absence to him for his non-attendance at meetings due to work commitments until the 13th October 2014.

RESOLVED – that the application for a leave of absence for Councillor D. Summers be agreed until the 13th October 2014.

64. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

Reports were given by representatives on the undermentioned Outside Bodies:-

(a) Youth Council

Councillor T. Twissell gave an update.

(b) County Durham Association of Local Councils (AGM)

No meeting – awaiting the AGM dates.

(c) Aycliffe Village Community Association

In the absence of Councillor C. Wheeler, the Town Clerk gave information from written notes which had been supplied by Councillor Wheeler following his attendance at the Community Association meeting.

(d) Woodham Village Community Association

Councillor K. Henderson gave an update.

(e) Great Aycliffe and Middridge Local Council's Committee

Councillor Fleming gave information on the recent meeting.

(f) Larger Local Councils' Forum

Councillor J.D. Clare gave a verbal update.

(g) Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre

Councillor T. Twissell spoke on the meeting he had attended earlier this week. Copies of minutes of the Management Committee held on the 19th May and 17th June were available for members to view.

(h) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society

Councillor I Gray gave an update.

(i) Sedgefield Health Network

Vacancy on this Outside Body.

(j) Friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve

Councillor I Gray gave an update.

(k) Friends of West Park

Councillor E. Adam gave an update.

(l) Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway

Councillor Atkinson had not received any information in connection with meetings.

RESOLVED – that the information given from the Representatives serving on the Outside Bodies be received.

CHAIRMAN.