

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 31st AUGUST 2016** at 7.15 pm

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

OFFICIALS Mr A Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mr S Cooper (Works & Environment Manager)
Mrs M J Robinson (Leisure & Environment Assistant)
Mrs J Thexton (Leisure Manager)
Ms C Walton (Corporate and Policy Officer)
Miss J Welch (Golf Manager)
Mr L Williams (Grounds Maintenance Services Coordinator)

24. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors J Clark, Mrs I Hewitson and C Wheeler.

25. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

26. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor J D Clare declared an interest in agenda item No. 11 as a member of Durham County Council, however, he would remain in the meeting during the discussions thereon.

27. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from the public.

28. **MINUTES**

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

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 29th June 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

29. **ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

The Grounds Maintenance Services Coordinator submitted his report for the period ending 21st August 2016. The report detailed inspections and general maintenance to the allotments.

The Grounds Maintenance Services Coordinator advised that a visit to the allotment sites had been organised for members who should contact him if they wish to go.

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

30. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted his report for the period ending 21st August 2016. The report updated members on site management and events and vandalism.

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

31. **CEMETERIES REPORT**

The Grounds Maintenance Services Coordinator submitted a report which gave information regarding burials which had taken place and grants which had been issued.

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

West Cemetery

Grave No. I 257	Kathleen Rickaby
Grave No. K 71	Allen Brown
Grave No. K126	Tracey Anne Price
Grave No. J158	Robert Mortimer
Grave No. J159	Robert Mortimer
Grave No. R 28	Barbara Hughes

Stephenson Way Cemetery

Grave No. F156	Victoria Norman
Grave No. A112	Stuart Morrison

32. **WEST CEMETERY**

The Grounds Maintenance Service Coordinator submitted a report requestiing members to consider removal and storage of unauthorised grave items.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that:

- i. The report be received.
- ii. It be agreed that where maintenance is not maintained by visitors to a grave, any items be removed and stored but each case treated individually and with compassion.

33. **MINI BALER HARVESTER**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report which asked members to consider the purchase of a mini baler which would assist in harvesting and potentially reseeding the Council's meadow sites.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that:

- i. The report be received.
- ii. A minibaler harvester be purchased at a cost of £13,235 from Carrs of Billington.
- iii. A power brush attachment for the mini baler be purchased.

34. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

- (a) Removal of mock Tudor timber framework and infill render – Royal Telegraph Inn – Aycliffe Village.
- (b) Erection of first floor side extension – 5 The Covert, Newton Aycliffe.
- (c) Erection of porch to north elevation – 2 Village Close, Newton Aycliffe.
- (d) Erection of 52 non-illuminated signs and 4no. internally illuminated signs within existing gantry – Tesco, Greenwell Road, Newton Aycliffe.
- (e) Erection of a wooden motorcycle garage/shed to rear and insertion of new access gate in wall to side – 1 Arrowsmith Square, Newton Aycliffe.
- (f) Illuminated totem sign, building-mounted branding signage – UTC South Durham, Long Tens Way, Aycliffe Industrial Estate.
- (g) Discharge of planning conditions 4 (materials), 5 (sound proofing), 6 (noise insulation), 8 (landscaping), 9 (sections), 10 (drainage), and 12 (archaeology) pursuant to DM/15/01121/FPA for the conversion of public house to 10 No. apartments and erection of 4 No. dwellings. – The North Briton, 23 High Street, Aycliffe Village.

(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) Prior notification for the erection of rear conservatory measuring 4 metres in length, 2.1 metres in height to eave level and 3 metres in overall height – 53 Kemble Green South, Newton Aycliffe.

(3) Members were requested to receive prior notification Planning Applications – (for information only). A planning application which is given a PN reference is considered 'deemed consent', similar to permitted development and the Town Council cannot object to a householder PN application. If the planning authority had any issues they would ask for further details and a full planning application.

- (a) Change of use of land to residential curtilage and erection of boundary fencing – 76 Mellanby Crescent, Newton Aycliffe. *No objections.*
- (b) Erection and display of digital screen within the bank window at Unit B3 – Avenue House, Greenwell Road, Newton Aycliffe. *No objections.*

- (c) Erection of fence to front (retrospective) – 1 Gamul Close, Newton Aycliffe. *No objections.*
- (d) Change of use of land to east from open space to domestic curtilage, erection of two storey side extension, single storey front and rear extension, garage/porch roof alterations and widening of driveway – 3 Lord Neville Drive, School Aycliffe. *No objections.*
- (e) Construction of new car park on vacant land adjacent to Redworth Way and St. Cuthbert's Way, Aycliffe Business Park. *No objections.*
- (f) Proposed cabin for biomass boiler – Rose Lodge Care Home, Burn Lane, Newton Aycliffe. *No objections.*
- (g) 15% Crown reduction, uplift to 3 metres and branch trimming by 1 metre (no cuts greater than 30mm) of Oak tree (T8) and 20% crown reduction, uplift to 3 metres and branch trimming by 1.5m (no cuts greater than 40mm) of Sycamore tree (T9) – 34 Hawkshead Place, Newton Aycliffe. *No objections.*
- (h) Variation of condition 2 of planning approval ref: DM15/01731/FPA relating to adherence to approved plans in terms of site layout and landscaping including a reduction in parking provision – Premier Inn, Ricknall Lane, Preston Le Skerne, Newton Aycliffe. *No objections.*

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that:

Applications 1 (a) to (g) - no objections.

Application 2 (a) - be received.

Applications 3 (a) to (h) - be received.

CHAIRMAN