

COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY 22 APRIL 2021 – 7.15 p.m.

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, and virtually, on Thursday 22nd April 2021 at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor Wendy Hillary (Chairman) and

Councillors Eddy Adam, M. Ashcroft, Derek G Atkinson, Kathy Beetham, P.J. Bergg, Mrs. D. Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, J. Clark, R.S. Fleming, George C. Gray, I. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, Dave Hardaker, Jed Hillary, Kate Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs. V.M. Raw, Ken Robson and Michael Stead.

OFFICERS

Mr. D. Austin (Town Clerk)
Mrs. C. A. Walton (Corporate and Policies Officer)
Mrs. S. Stretch (Senior Admin Officer)

IN ATTENDANCE Mr. A. Bailey (Outgoing Town Clerk)

234. NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

235. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Jim Atkinson, Bill Blenkinsopp and Mrs. M. Dalton.

236. MEMBERS' DISPENSATION

No dispensation requests had been received.

237. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

238. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

239. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor M. Iveson, seconded by Councillor Mrs. S. J. Iveson and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on the 10th March 2021, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

240. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Clerk gave a short update on the Town Council's response to HRH the Duke of Edinburgh's passing.

He also made the point that as we are currently in purdah, the pre-election requirements of party politics should not be referred to.

A thank you card received from the recently retired Senior Administration Officer, Christine Ryder was read out.

The retiring Town Clerk, Andrew Bailey, then gave a short speech thanking Councillors and staff, both past and present, for their support over the many years.

Mr. Andrew Bailey left the meeting at this point.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the information be received.

241. COMMITTEE MINUTES

(a) Environment Committee

It was proposed by Councillor M. Ashcroft, seconded by Councillor M. Iveson and

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 7th April 2021 be received and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(b) Recreation Committee

It was proposed by Councillor J. Hillary, seconded by Councillor M. Iveson and

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 7th April 2021 be received and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(c) Policy and Resources Committee

It was proposed by Councillor M. Ashcroft, seconded by Councillor M. Iveson and

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 14th April 2021 be received and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

242. ANNUAL UPDATE OF THE COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The Town Clerk submitted a report to members for their consideration and approval of the annual update of the Council's Financial Regulations.

It was proposed by Councillor M. Iveson, seconded by Councillor K. Robson and

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the recommended changes to the Financial Regulations be approved.
- (ii) That the Financial Regulations 2021 Update be submitted for formal adoption at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 19th May 2021.

243. ANNUAL UPDATE OF THE COUNCIL'S STANDING ORDERS FOR CONTRACTS AND PROCUREMENT

The Town Clerk submitted a report and updated Standing Orders relating to Contracts and Procurement to members for their consideration and approval.

It was proposed by Councillor M. Iveson, seconded by Councillor J. Hillary and

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the recommended changes to the Standing Orders be approved.
- (iii) That the Standing Orders relating to Contracts and Procurement be submitted for formal adoption at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 19th May 2021.

244. LUMIERE 2021 BUSINESS CLUB

The Town Clerk submitted a request from Artichoke/CDALC who produce the Lumiere festival in County Durham to members views on supporting the event via subscription.

After discussing the correspondence supplied:

It was proposed by Councillor R. Fleming, seconded by Councillor A. Chandran and recommended that more information is requested and the application to be brought to the next Policy and Resources meeting.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That further information is requested and the application to be brought to the next Policy and Resources meeting.

245. NOTICE OF MOTION

Members received the following Notice of Motion from Councillor J. Clare:

“That Great Aycliffe Town Council should propose Councillor Mrs. Mary Dalton for the Durham County Council Chairman’s Medal in recognition of and with thanks for her services to this Council as Mayor and Chair of the Council, lately at the age of 95”.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Mrs.V. M. Raw.

The Town Clerk gave the criteria for the recipient of the Chairman’s Medal.

After lengthy discussion, it was proposed by Councillor J. Clare and seconded by Councillor M. Stead the motion be amended and re-submitted to read:

“*After her retirement as a councillor*, that Great Aycliffe Town Council should propose Councillor Mrs. Mary Dalton for the Durham County Council Chairman’s Medal in recognition of and with thanks for her services to this Council as Mayor and Chair of the Council, lately at the age of 95.”

A vote was taken for this amendment.

There were 14 votes for and 10 against the amendment to the motion.
The amended motion was carried.

It was requested by Councillor A. Chandran that a named vote be carried out on the substantive motion.

The result of the named vote was as follows:

For:

Councillors Eddy Adam, Derek G Atkinson, Kathy Beetham, P.J. Bergg, B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, J. Clark, I. Gray, B. Hall, Dave Hardaker, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, Kate Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs. V.M. Raw, and Michael Stead.

Against:

Mrs. D. Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, George C. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh and Ken Robson

Abstained:

M. Ashcroft and R.S. Fleming

17 for and 5 against with 2 abstentions. The Motion was carried.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the amended Notice of Motion be approved
- (ii) and after her retirement as a councillor, that Great Aycliffe Town Council should propose Councillor Mrs. Mary Dalton for the Durham County Council Chairman’s Medal in recognition of and with thanks for her services to this Council as Mayor and Chair of the Council, lately at the age of 95.”

246. OUTSIDE BODIES

To receive reports from representatives on the following Outside Bodies:

- (a) **Youth Council**
No meetings.
- (b) **County Durham Association of Local Councils**
No meetings.
- (c) **Aycliffe Village Community Association**
No report.
- (d) **Woodham Village Community Association**
No meetings.
- (e) **Great Aycliffe and Middridge Local Councils' Committee**
No meetings.
- (f) **Larger Local Councils' Forum**
No meetings.
- (g) **Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society**
Councillor I. Gray gave an update report.
- (h) **Friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve**
Councillor I. Gray gave an update report.
- (i) **Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway**
Councillor Dave Hardaker gave an update report.
- (j) **GAMP – Community Safety Task Group**
No meetings.

RESOLVED – that the reports from Outside Body representatives be received.

247. EXEMPT BUSINESS

It was proposed by Councillor A. Chandran, seconded by Councillor K. Robson 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.

248. DEPOT MAST LEASE RENEWAL

A report was received to update members on the negotiations in regard to the renewal of the lease to the telecommunications mast located in the Council depot site.

It was proposed by Councillor M. Iveson, seconded by Councillor R. Fleming and

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the report be received
- (ii) That the Town Clerk be authorised to deal with this matter with the assistance of the Town Council solicitors in compiling and entering into a final agreement with Arqiva.

249. RE-ADMISSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor A. Chandran, seconded by Councillor K. Robson and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the press and public be re-admitted to the meeting.

CHAIRMAN.