

FULL COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 27TH JULY 2022 – 7.15 p.m.

Minutes of the proceedings of the **ORDINARY MEETING** of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY 27TH JULY 2022** at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor Ken Robson (Chairman)

Councillors Eddy Adam, Tony Armstrong, Lindsey Aston, Jim Atkinson, Peter Bergg, Dorothy Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, Neil Collinson, Bob Fleming, George Gray, Ian Gray, Brian Haigh, Phillip Hawkins, Andy Hill, Kate Hopper, Joanne Jones, Neville Jones, Andrea Miller, John Moore, Carl Robinson, Michael Stead, Anne Woodward and John Woodward.

OFFICERS

Mr. Dan Austin (Town Clerk)
Mr. Lee Williams (Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator)
Mrs. Julie Walton (Corporate Assistant)

IN ATTENDANCE

Joy Allen – Durham Police and Crime Commissioner
Maria Daniels – Interim Partnerships Officer for Durham Police and Crime Commissioners Office

One member of the public.

44. NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

45. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Martin Ashcroft, Sandra Haigh, Jed Hillary and Wendy Hillary.

46. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

There had been no requests for dispensations under disclosable or non-disclosable interests.

47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

48. GUEST SPEAKER – DURHAM POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The Durham Police and Crime Commissioner, Joy Allen attended the meeting to update the Council on policing matters. The Police and Crime Commissioner gave an overview of what is happening in the area including details of how anti-social behaviour statistics have fallen significantly in each Ward on the town. She also gave details of the work currently being undertaken by the Police and Crime Commissioners Office. This included an overview of current funding streams including Left Behind Towns Fund, Levelling Up Fund and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the opportunities for partnership working. Details were also given of the work being done by the Neighbourhoods team within schools to deter youths from anti-social behaviour.

Following the update, members asked several questions, to which the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner provided comprehensive answers.

The Chairman thanked Joy Allen for attending the meeting.

Joy Allen and Maria Daniels left the meeting at 8.15pm

49. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

50. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Arun M Chandran, and seconded by Councillor Eddy Adam and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 15th June 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to Minute 37(ii) being amended to read: *“that an appraisal panel be appointed comprising of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Personnel Sub Committee plus one representative from each group”*.

51. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor had submitted a list of appointments from the 20th June – 20th July 2022.

Councillor Eddy Adam acknowledged the effort made by the Mayor in visiting local businesses and retail to promote Great Aycliffe Town Council.

Councillor Phil Hawkins addressed the meeting to inform members that he has been in discussion with the Chairman and Town Clerk and arranged for the royalties he receives for books he has written in the past to be donated to the Chairman’s charities for the next three years, regardless of who the Mayor is or what the charities are.

Councillor Hawkins was commended by the Chairman for his generosity.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

52. COMMITTEE MINUTES

(a) Environment Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Arun M Chandran, and seconded by Councillor Lindsey Aston and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 13th July 2022 be received, and
- (ii) that the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(b) Recreation Committee

It was proposed by Councillor George Gray, and seconded by Councillor Andy Hill and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) that the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 13th July 2022 be received, and
- (ii) that the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(c) Policy and Resources Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Michael Stead, and seconded by Councillor Lindsey Aston and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 20th July 2022 be received, and
- (ii) that the said minutes be approved and adopted.

53. NALC AND SLCC CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE

The Town Clerk provided Members with information relating to the Civility and Respect Project being launched by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and to request the consideration of Members to the Council taking the 'Civility and Respect Pledge'.

It was proposed by Councillor Arun M Chandran and seconded by Councillor Eddy Adam and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- i) That the report be received.
- ii) That the Council agree to taking the Civility and Respect Pledge, demonstrating that it is committed to standing up to poor behaviour across the town and parish council sector and driving through positive changes which support civil and respectful conduct.

- iii) That the Council continue to monitor the progress and implementation of the Civility and Respect Project and report to the Council any further recommended actions, as necessary, with the aim of improving the Council's governance arrangements e.g. arranging training for members and officers, updating policies and procedures etc.

54. SYD HOWARTH MEMORIAL UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Grounds Maintenance Services Co-Ordinator to bring Members up to date with the Syd Howarth Memorial in West Cemetery.

Councillor Bob Fleming raised concerns about the impact on the Council's Memorial Policy and the precedent that had been set in agreeing the memorial.

Councillor Arun Chandran requested that officers review the Memorials Policy and add appropriate wording to cover requests of this nature.

Following a lengthy debate it was proposed by Councillor Eddy Adam, and seconded by Councillor Peter Bergg that the update report be received and that the memorial proceeds as set out in the report.

A vote was held and the proposal was agreed.

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) that the update report be received and that the memorial proceeds as set out in the report;
- (ii) that officers review the Memorials Policy and add appropriate wording to cover requests of this nature.

55. OUTSIDE BODIES

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

- (a) **Youth Council**
There had been no meeting.
- (b) **County Durham Association of Local Councils**
There had been no meeting. Councillor Eddy Adam put forward a request that the Council asks CDALC at the next meeting to lobby Central Government for funding for Town and Parish Councils in relation to the 2022/23 local government pay award. This was agreed.
- (c) **Aycliffe Village Community Association**
Councillor Neville Jones did not attend the meeting.
- (d) **Woodham Village Community Association**
Councillor John Moore gave an update. He informed Members that he is now a trustee and because of this he now has a Declarable Pecuniary Interest and will be stepping down as representative for this outside body. Councillor Lyndsey Aston indicated that she may be interested in being nominated as the representative of Woodham Village Community Association. This will be considered at the next meeting.

- (e) **Great Aycliffe and Middridge Local Councils' Committee**
There had been no meeting.
- (f) **Larger Local Councils' Forum**
Councillor Arun M Chandran gave an update report.
- (g) **Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society**
Councillor Ian Gray gave an update report.
- (h) **Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway**
Councillor Jim Atkinson gave an update report.
- (i) **Western Area Partnership**
Councillor Ken Robson gave an update report.

56. EXEMPT BUSINESS

It was proposed by Councillor Arun M Chandran, seconded by Councillor Eddy Adam and

RESOLVED – that it was in the opinion of the Council that due to the confidential nature of the following item, it was advisable to exclude the press and public.

57. 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEWTON AYCLIFFE

A report was received from the Corporate Management Team to provide Members with details of the early plans being made ahead of the 75th Anniversary of the Town in 2023 and to advise of the possibility of a securing a Royal Visit during the period of the celebrations.

Members are requested to consider the information set out within the report and the following specific recommendations:-

- 1) Consider the information provided in the report and provide feedback and guidance to officers on the ideas already put forward as well as advise on what further ideas they would like to suggest for the anniversary.
- 2) Agree a broad itinerary and timetable for the celebrations.
- 3) Consider whether they wish for the Council to link in with Peterlee's 75th Anniversary plans, being led by Durham County Council, and specifically whether it wishes to make a £8,000 match funding contribution towards the Living Memory Project for which a National Lottery Heritage Fund bid is being prepared by Durham County Council and Peterlee Town Council.
- 4) Consider forming a 'Newton Aycliffe 75th Anniversary Steering Group' to oversee the plans and agree the membership of this group.
- 5) Consider the allocation of Revenue and Capital Budget for the 75th Anniversary Celebrations and the need to seek match funding from other partners.
- 6) Consider whether the Council wishes to proceed with a formal invitation, in partnership with Newton Press and other organisations such as the Veteran's Hub and PCP, to secure a Royal Visit to the town next year, on the basis set out in the report.

Councillor Arun M Chandran put forward the following motion:

“that the Council scale back the 75th Anniversary plans working on a principle of the Council holding one event similar to this year’s Queen’s Jubilee Event using the existing Large Community Events Budget, (£10,000 remaining Budget), one lasting commemoration of the anniversary e.g. a sculpture or new woodland which can be funded from the Capital Budget, and then everything else being undertaken in partnership with other organisations and at no cost to the Council – beyond the usual grant and donation requests.

Councillor Bob Fleming seconded the motion.

A vote was held and Members voted unanimously in favour of the motion and therefore the motion was carried.

The Town Clerk advised that whilst the above motion covered recommendations 1, 2 and 5 of the report, Members would also need to make decisions on recommendations 3, 4 and 6.

It was proposed by Councillor Eddy Adam and seconded by Councillor Lindsey Aston that the Council links in with Peterlee’s 75th Anniversary plans and makes a £8,000 match funding contribution towards the Living Memory Project for which a National Lottery Heritage Fund bid is being prepared by Durham County Council and Peterlee Town Council.

A vote was held with the following results:

In Favour	2
Against	14
Abstentions	4

Therefore the recommendation was rejected and it was agreed that the Council *does not* link in with Peterlee’s 75th Anniversary plans or make a £8,000 match funding contribution towards the Living Memory Project.

It was proposed by Councillor Arun M Chandran and seconded by Councillor Bob Fleming on recommendation 4 that the Council do not agree to form a ‘Newton Aycliffe 75th Anniversary Steering Group’ to oversee the plans.

It was proposed by Councillor Peter Bergg and seconded by Councillor Jim Atkinson on recommendation 6 that the Council proceed with a formal invitation, in partnership with Newton Press and other organisations such as the Veteran’s Hub and PCP, to secure a Royal Visit to the town next year, on the basis set out in the report.

RESOLVED – as follows

- i) That the Council scale back the 75th Anniversary plans working on a principle of the Council holding one event similar to this year’s Queen’s Jubilee Event using the existing Large Community Events Budget, (£10,000 remaining Budget), one lasting commemoration of the anniversary e.g. a sculpture or new woodland which can be funded from the Capital Budget, and then everything else being undertaken in partnership with other organisations and at no cost to the Council – beyond the usual grant and donation requests.

- ii) That the Council does not link in with Peterlee's 75th Anniversary plans or make a £8,000 match funding contribution towards the Living Memory Project for which a National Lottery Heritage Fund bid is being prepared by Durham County Council and Peterlee Town Council.
- iii) That the Council do not agree to form a 'Newton Aycliffe 75th Anniversary Steering Group' to oversee the plans.
- iv) That the Council proceed with a formal invitation, in partnership with Newton Press and other organisations such as the Veteran's Hub and PCP, to secure a Royal Visit to the town next year.

58. RE-ADMISSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Eddy Adam, seconded by Councillor Jim Atkinson and

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

CHAIRMAN.