

FULL COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 24TH JULY 2024 – 7.00 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 24TH JULY 2024 at 7.00 p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillor John Clark (Chairman)

Councillors Jim Atkinson, Dorothy Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, George Gray, Ian Gray, Brian Haigh, Phillip Hawkins, Andy Hill, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, Joanne Jones, Sandra Kirby, Brian McAnaney, John Moore, Peter Musa, Carl Robinson, Michael Stead, Anne Woodward and John Woodward.

OFFICERS

Mr. Dan Austin (Town Clerk)

Mrs. Sharna Stretch (Senior Administration Officer)

IN ATTENDANCE

Two members 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: Eddy Adam, Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Lindsey Aston, Peter Bergg, Neil Collinson, Sandra Haigh, Neville Jones, and Ken Robson.

46. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

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

47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Phillip Hawkins declared an interest in Agenda Item 12 as a trustee and member of the management team of Lifeline Community Action.

48. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

49. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Andy Hill, and seconded by Councillor Jed Hillary and;

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 12th June 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

50. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor provided a list of appointments for the period from the 6th June to 17th July 2024.

RESOLVED – as follows:

- i) that the announcements be received.

51. COMMITTEE MINUTES

(a) Recreation Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Andy Hill, and seconded by Councillor Phillip Hawkins; and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- i) that the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 10th July 2024 be received; and
- ii) that the minutes and recommendations be approved and adopted.

(b) Environment Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Ian Gray, and seconded by Councillor Andy Hill; and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- i) that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 10th July 2024 be received; and
- ii) that the minutes and recommendations be approved and adopted.

(c) Policy and Resources Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Arun Chandran and seconded by Councillor Jed Hillary; and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- i) that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 17th July 2024 be received; and
- ii) that the minutes and recommendations be approved and adopted.

52. CDALC A.G.M. PREPARATIONS

Correspondence was submitted from the County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) for members to consider the nominations for the roles of President, Vice Presidents, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Auditor ahead of their Annual General Meeting in October, and to consider any motions that the Council wishes to put forward to the Meeting.

A notice of motion for the CDALC AGM was proposed by Councillor Arun Chandran and seconded by Councillor Carl Robinson; as follows:

"That Great Aycliffe Town Council, in response to the DCC reorganisation of its AAPs and its unintended consequences on the makeup of the CDALC Executive Committee, does hereby propose that the Executive Committee of CDALC should consist of twelve Members, with six from Larger Local Councils and six from Smaller Local Councils, and that these members shall be elected at the CDALC AGM."

A vote then took place and was agreed by majority decision.

It was also proposed by Councillor Wendy Hillary that Councillor Jed Hillary be nominated to the vacant Vice-President position. This was seconded by Councillor Arun Chandran.

A vote then took place and was agreed by majority decision.

RESOLVED – as follows:

- i) That the correspondence be received.
- ii) That the Town Council advise CDALC that they support the current nominations for the roles of President, Vice Presidents, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Auditor.
- iii) That Councillor Jed Hillary be nominated for the vacant position of Vice-President.
- iv) That the following proposal be forwarded to CDALC:

"That Great Aycliffe Town Council, in response to the DCC reorganisation of its AAPs and its unintended consequences on the makeup of the CDALC Executive Committee, does hereby propose that the Executive Committee of CDALC should consist of twelve Members, with six from Larger Local Councils and six from Smaller Local Councils, and that these members shall be elected at the CDALC AGM."

53. REQUEST FOR THE COUNCIL'S VIEW ON DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL'S PROPOSED REMOVAL OF COUNCILLOR'S HOME ADDRESSES FROM REGISTER OF INTEREST FORMS

Correspondence was submitted from CDALC requesting the views of the Town Council on Durham County Council's Register of Interests proposal for all Members' home addresses to be treated as sensitive information, and only the electoral division in which they live to be published, unless a member opts in to have their home address published.

It was proposed by Councillor Jed Hillary and seconded by Councillor John Clark that Option 1 'to agree to remove member home addresses unless the individual member decides to opt-in' be agreed.

A vote then took place and was agreed by majority decision.

RESOLVED – as follows;

- i) That the correspondence be received.
- ii) That the Council responds to the survey in support of Option 1, 'to agree to remove member home addresses unless the individual Member decides to opt-in'.

54. NOTICE OF MOTION

Members considered a Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Jed Hillary, and seconded by Councillor Arun Chandran as follows:

"That the Town Council writes to Durham County Council, asking them to consider the naming of streets in Great Aycliffe, in particular the proposed Copelaw or other new developments, to include the names of: Fleming, Bailey, and White to give recognition to the Honorary Freemen of Great Aycliffe".

The Town Clerk advised that Freeman Don Vickers already has a street named after him (Vickers Court).

Councillor Arun Chandran clarified that the streets should be named in 'surname' only.

The Chairman added that there are no 'streets' in Newton Aycliffe and that Durham County Council need to be mindful of this.

The Motion was voted upon and agreed by majority decision.

RESOLVED – as follows;

- i) That the Town Council writes to Durham County Council, asking them to consider the naming of streets in Great Aycliffe, in particular the proposed Copelaw or other new developments, to include the names of: Fleming, Bailey, and White to give recognition to the Honorary Freemen of Great Aycliffe.

55. REQUEST FROM LIFELINE COMMUNITY ACTION

A request from Lifeline Community Action was considered extending an invitation for one Town Councillor to join the Community Hub Development Group and to agree the attendance of the Town Clerk at meetings of this group in an advisory capacity.

It was proposed by Councillor Jim Atkinson and seconded by Councillor Joanne Jones that Councillor Neville Jones be nominated to represent the Town Council at the Community Hub Development Group and that the Town Clerk be permitted to attend the meetings in an advisory capacity.

RESOLVED – as follows;

- i) That the information be received.
- ii) That the Community Hub Development Group be added to the Council's list of Outside Bodies.
- iii) That Councillor Neville Jones be nominated as the Town Council representative on the Community Hub Development Group.
- iv) That the Town Clerk attend their meetings in an advisory capacity.

56. LOCAL NETWORK BOUNDARY CONSULTATION

Members considered correspondence received from the County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) highlighting details of a consultation by Durham County Council on the proposed boundaries for the new Local Networks, which are replacing the Area Action Partnerships.

In Great Aycliffe, it is being proposed that the Local Network will cover Aycliffe North and Middridge, Aycliffe South, and Sedgefield.

Councillor Jed Hillary expressed concern that Great Aycliffe had nothing in common with the proposed Local Network grouping consisting of Fishburn and Sedgefield and that it would make more sense to group Aycliffe with Shildon, Eldon and Middridge due to the closer local links e.g. schools.

He proposed that the Council does not accept the proposed Local Network and ask Durham County Council to revisit the decision.

Councillor Michael Stead seconded this proposal requesting that the Council make clear its preferred alternative option.

Councillor Arun Chandran expressed concern about the savings being made and the potential reduction in grant funds.

A vote then took place on the proposal and was agreed by majority decision.

RESOLVED – as follows;

- i) That the consultation information be received.
- ii) That officers write to Durham County Council regarding the proposal for the Local Network to cover Aycliffe North and Middridge, Aycliffe South, and Sedgefield to advise that it is not in favour of the proposal and that Durham County Council revisit the network grouping plan and consider placing Great Aycliffe in a grouping with Middridge, Shildon and Eldon.

57. APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Members considered a proposal from Councillor Arun Chandran, seconded by Councillor Lindsey Aston:

“That in accordance with Standing Order 15 a) (iii) the Environment and Recreation Committees be increased by one member and that Councillor Peter Musa be added to these committees”; and

“To note that Councillor Peter Bergg has advised the Town Clerk that he wishes to stand down as a member of the Policy and Resources Committee, and to agree that Councillor Peter Musa replaces him on this committee”.

RESOLVED – as follows:

- i) That in accordance with Standing Order 15 a)(iii) the Environment and Recreation Committees be increased by one member and that Councillor Peter Musa be added to these committees; and;
- ii) To note that Councillor Peter Bergg wishes to stand down as a member of the Policy and Resources Committee and that Councillor Peter Musa replace him on this committee.

58. OUTSIDE BODIES

Members received reports from representatives on the following Outside Bodies:

a) County Durham Association of Local Councils

There had been no meetings.

b) Aycliffe Village Community Association

Councillor Carl Robinson gave a verbal update.

c) Woodham Village Community Association

There had been no meetings.

d) Great Aycliffe and Middridge Local Councils' Committee

There had been no meetings.

e) Larger Local Councils' Forum

Councillor Jed Hillary gave a verbal update on the recent meeting.

f) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society

Councillor Ian Gray gave a verbal update and thanked J&C Coaches for their assistance. An Open Day is to be held at the Council Offices on 17th August.

g) Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway

Councillor Jim Atkinson gave a verbal update.

h) Western Area Partnership

Councillor Arun Chandran advised that a written report would follow for the next meeting and that there is a community litter pick at 10am on Saturday, to meet at the Ark.

i) Cornforth Partnership

Councillor Brian McAnaney gave a verbal update.

CHAIRMAN