

Ashington Town Council
DRAFT Minutes of the Climate Change & Environment Committee Meeting held at
6:00pm on Tuesday 18th October 2022, in The Council Chamber, Town Hall

COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

Cllr Sophie Robinson (Chair), Cllrs. Caroline Ball, Michelle Brannigan, Louis Brown, Vicky Brown, Marjorie Chambers, Glyn Davies, John Tully, and Bob Walkinshaw.

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE:

Sarah Eden – Clerk/RFO, Stephen Humphrey – ATC Assets and Facilities Manager, Sharon Parmley – Administration (minute taking)
 Dr Wendy Fail, Senior Waste Management Officer, Northumberland County Council

CCE 22/014 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Eleanor Armstrong, Victor Bridges, Matthew Cuthbert, Lynne Grimshaw, Lawrence Henderson, Jim Lang, Liam Lavery, Mark Purvis

CCE 22/015 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interests from Councillors.

CCE 22/016 DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensations from Councillors.

CCE 22/017 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair invited a participating resident to bring forward their questions for consideration.

The resident presented the Council with a number of empty plastic food containers, asking why these items were not recycled by Northumberland County Council, when other local authorities are recycling them?

The Chair thanked the resident for the visual display and questions and advised that the matter would be covered in the address by NCC Officer, Dr Wendy Fail.

CCE 22/018 MINUTES OF CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3RD AUGUST 2022

It was **AGREED** to **RECEIVE** and sign as a true record, the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 3rd August 2022

CCE 22/019 NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL – WASTE MANAGEMENT

It was **AGREED** to invite questions to be addressed to Wendy Fail on waste management, including the previous question from the resident.

In response to the resident's question, Dr Fail explained that the current company NCC use to recycle waste does not have the technology to deal with the smaller plastic pots, tubs, and trays. At the moment they can only process the more robust plastics such as milk and water bottles.

Dr Fail agrees this is not satisfactory and using another contractor has been explored, however, the costs for cancelling the current contract are too high.

NCC have 6 depots across the County, serving densely populated and rural areas, the same refuse vehicles are used for all, and collections are separated into, glass (the current pilot scheme across some areas), dry mix (recyclable waste), and general household waste.

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Other authorities are using split vehicles that can collect two types of waste. NCC currently do not have the budget to replace all the current vehicles with split vehicles.

Government funding is expected to be available in the future for items such as glass, pots/tubs and even food waste.

The current pilot for glass collections from 5,000 houses, is to be extended to run until March 2024. No further houses will be added to the trial for the time being.

A food waste trial including circa 4,200 properties is about to start. This will involve a weekly collection of food waste which will be taken to a plant in Gateshead for biomass. A new vehicle has been hired for the project as well as food waste caddies.

NCC ceased to send waste to landfill in 2009, all general waste now goes to Teesside to be incinerated, to create electricity.

Suez are monitored by Environment Agency every hour for emissions. They use lime and carbon to neutralize chemicals.

Dr Fail informed members of the amount of recyclable waste (dry waste) that is contaminated, with 103 tonnes of dry waste rejected in the last week alone.

Cllr Tully expressed the need to make it socially unacceptable to those contaminating recycle bins and envisions the need for a massive education project across the county.

Refuse collection staff are trained to check recycle bins, often checking the weight of the bin to determine if it is contaminated with dirty nappies for example.

Dr Fail has an education programme to deliver, schools are visited during assembly's etc. If councillors are aware of any school wishing to be involved in the programme, please let Wendy know.

Cllr Brannigan asked if tetrapaks are currently recycled by NCC?

Tetrapaks are not currently recycled by NCC, however, they can be taken to the local household recovery centres to be recycled.

Cllr Ball asked if signage could be looked at for communal bin stores, informing residents which materials can be recycled.

All contaminated community bins can be reported to Wendy.

The Chair thanked Wendy on behalf of the Council for attending the meeting and delivering an interesting and informative presentation.

Ashington Town Council
DRAFT Minutes of the Climate Change & Environment Committee Meeting held at
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CCE 22/020 TREE PLANTING TARGETS, ENGAGEMENT AND MONITORING

a) Tree Planting Targets and Engagement

It was AGREED to set a tree planting target of 1,500 trees. Members also agreed to look at 2023/24 budget to include funding for future tree planting schemes.

It was FURTHER AGREED to engage with residents, businesses, schools, and community organisations to encourage tree planting and recording.

b) Monitoring Tree Planting

It was AGREED to develop a system to record and monitor the trees being planted in Ashington and to showcase and celebrate planting achievements.

It was further AGREED the system would include a specifically designed web page to display the tree planting target as well as a map of planted trees in Ashington.

Residents, businesses, schools, and community groups will be able to submit details of their tree planting schemes to be added to the overall target.

Members were shown the webpage and agreed it should go live.

Cllr Glyn Davies left the meeting 7:15pm.

CCE 22/021 PROPOSED TREE PLANTING

It was AGREED to RECEIVE a map and report of tree planting sites and schemes sent out in advance of the meeting.

It was FURTHER AGREED to progress with the following schemes.

1. Woodhorn Roundabout a189/A197. To complement existing tree provision on roundabout to Ashington. 35 mixed trees, plus tree guards.
2. A196 Opposite car park, to complement existing tree planting opposite the entrance to the car park on the river Wansbeck. 8 mixed trees, plus tree guards.
3. Alexandra Road play area, to complement existing tree provision around the soon to be refurbished play area. 2 Whitebeam trees, plus tree guards.
4. Entrance to Paddock Wood, to complement existing tree provision close to the entrance to Paddock Wood and Thorntree Gardens area. 8 mixed trees, plus tree guards.
5. B1334 North Seaton, Tree planting on grass verge from new Ashington entrance feature to junction of South side and adjoining Hillcrest area to complement existing tree provision. 20 mixed trees, plus tree guards.

CCE 22/022 SUSPENSION OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

It was AGREED to suspend Financial Regulation 11(e) to allow consideration of a single quotation.

CCE 22/023 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was AGREED to pass the resolution:

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That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item, permitted under Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Authorities (Access to Information) (Exempt Information) (England) Order 2006) Act as the matter is commercially sensitive

CCE 22/024 TREE PLANTING COSTS

It was AGREED to receive the costs associated with the above five tree planting schemes at a cost of **£25,697.82** to be supplied (with tree guards), planted, and maintained for 12 months by Brambledown Landscaping Ltd.

It was FURTHER AGREED that the Assets and Facilities Manager place and order for the works.

CCE 22/025 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Following approval of the Chair, an urgent item was brought forward. **It was AGREED** to suspend standing orders to receive the following motion without notice in line with "9b - No motion may be moved at a meeting unless it is on the agenda and the mover has given written notice of its wording to the Proper Officer at least seven clear days before the meeting. Clear days do not include the day of the notice, or the day of the meeting."

CCE 22/026 ENVIRONMENTAL WORK (deferred from FGS Committee, 11th October 2022)

To receive a quotation to remove hedgerow on Woodhorn Lane at the entrance to Ashington Community FC, between the zebra crossing (north) and junction (south), for the purpose of alleviating fly-tipping and accumulations of rubbish and agree to seek 50% contribution from Northumberland County Council.

In accordance with Standing Order 3s) Cllr Marjorie Chambers requested a named vote.

The item was proposed by Cllr Pauline Thompson, and seconded by Cllr Louis Brown.

Following debate, Cllr Pauline Thompson withdrew the motion.

CCE 22/027 DATE, TIME, AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 17th January 2023, 6:00pm, Council Chamber.