

Minutes of the meeting of the **RECREATION COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 7th SEPTEMBER 2011** (immediately after the Environment Committee)

PRESENT

Councillor B Hall (Chairman)

Councillors Mrs. D. Bowman, T.R. Bowman, J.D. Clare, V. Crosby, W. Curtis, Mrs. M. Dalton, P. Ducker, R.S. Fleming, G.C. Gray, I. Gray, Mrs. J. Gray, B. Haigh, Mrs. S. Haigh, K. Henderson, T. Hogan, Mrs. K. Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson, Mrs. E.M. Paylor, Mrs. V.M. Raw and A. Warburton.

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp

OFFICIALS

Mr A Bailey (Town Clerk)
Miss J Simpson (Leisure Manager)
Mr D Thompson (Works Manager)
Mr. S. Cooper (Environment Officer)
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin Officer)

32. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs. B.A. Clare, Mrs. A. Palmer and Mr. N. Whinham (Golf Professional)

33. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest declared.

34. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

35. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor W. Curtis, seconded by Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton and

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 6th July 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

36. **SHOW WORKING GROUP**

Notes and recommendations from the meeting of the Show Working Group held on the **11th July 2011** were considered.

It was proposed by Councillor M. Iveson, seconded by Councillor P. Ducker and

RESOLVED - that it be recommended:

- (i) That the notes and the following recommendations of the Show Working Group held on the **11th July 2011** be agreed:

- (ii) That AF Entertainments be contacted to cancel the booking for their attendance with water walkerz at the Show.
- (iii) That John Weal (Bounceabout Leisure) be booked to provide water walkerz at a cost to the Council of £800 (£400 per day) and provide this activity free of charge to the public.
- (iv) That officers make general enquiries regarding the feasibility of either a walking parade or float parade.
- (v) That officers enquire to see if it is possible to publicise the Show with Durham County Council's magazine "Countrywide".

37. **GOLF COURSE WORKING GROUP**

Notes and recommendations from the meeting of the Golf Course Working Group held on the **13th July 2011** were considered.

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

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the notes and the following recommendations of the Golf Course Working Group held on the **13th July 2011** be agreed.
- (ii) That meter readings of the speed of the greens be taken on a once a week basis with the results posted in the Golf Shop.
- (iii) That the results of the STRI report be submitted to the next Golf Course Working Group meeting.
- (iv) That a meeting be organised, as soon as possible, with the Oakleaf Golf Club and , in particular, to discuss Junior Memberships.

38. **OAKLEAF GOLF COMPLEX**

The Town Clerk and Golf Professional submitted a report which gave details of the income for the nine weeks ending 28th August 2011 compared with the corresponding period of the previous year.

The Golf Professional reported on the success of the Oakleaf Junior Team who won the league and the Champions of Champions match. The Winter Range League had been announced. Midweek golf concessions were successful.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That a letter of congratulations be forwarded to the Junior Golf Team for achieving such excellent results.

39. **OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX – USAGE**

The Leisure Manager submitted a report which detailed the attendance and income at the Oakleaf Sports Complex for June and July 2011 compared with the corresponding period in 2010.

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

40. **OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX**

The Leisure Manager submitted her report to update members on current initiatives at the Sports Complex.

Information was given on a Junior Squash or Badminton trial which had been held during the summer holiday period and had resulted in several new juniors undertaking junior coaching.

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

41. **OUTSIDE EVENTS**

The Leisure and Environment Assistant submitted her report for the nine weeks ended 28th August 2011.

The report set out information on the Great Aycliffe Show weekend with emphasis on the extreme wet weather conditions and especially the conditions of the running track. Members were informed of a theft from the Playhouse Marquee which may result in a refund being sought from the Council.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That members wished to express their thanks for the work carried out by the staff and Show Working Group for the organising of the show.
- (iii) That a report on the condition of the 'running track' be brought to a future meeting.

42. **PROVISION OF PICNIC BENCHES**

This was a matter which had been referred back by Council (Minute No. 48(b)(ii) referred) following a decision at the Recreation Committee meeting held on the 6th July 2011 (Minute No. 27 referred). At that time the committee had resolved "that the offer of a funded picnic bench for West Park Car Park area be declined as it had previously been agreed that this was not a suitable area for the siting of benches".

Members consider the request again and felt that a bench in this particular area and proximity to housing and the car park could pose problems.

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming and seconded by Councillor M. Iveson that the Council declines the offer for the siting of a picnic bench in the car park area of West Park.

Councillor G.C. Gray asked for a named vote which resulted as follows:-

For the proposal:

“Councillors Mrs. D. Bowman, T.R. Bowman, J.D. Clare, V. Crosby, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, I. Gray, Mrs. J. Gray, B. Hall, K. Henderson, Mrs. K. Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson, Mrs. E.M. Paylor and Mrs. V.M. Raw.

Against the proposal:

“Councillors B. Curtis, P. Ducker, G.C. Gray, B. Haigh, Mrs. S. Haigh and A. Warburton.”

Abstention: “Councillor T. Hogan”

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the offer for the siting of a picnic bench in the car park area of West Park be further declined.

43. **WEST PARK LAKES**

The Works Manager and Environment Officer had submitted a report to enable members to have an understanding of the issues surrounding the provision of the West Park Lakes, in particular the maintenance, wildlife and quality of the water.

The report gave explicit details from the construction of the lakes by the Development Corporation and their use as a boating and amenity facility, to the various ways they had been cleaned and the water treated.

Appendices were attached to give information on algae, population of wildlife and the quality of the water.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That officers be congratulated on the quality and historical content of the report.
- (iii) That the current methods of maintenance of the lakes at West Park be continued.

44. **NOTICE OF MOTION**

Councillor G.C. Gray had submitted the following Notice of Motion:

“That the two lakes in the West Park are to be cleaned out on a quarterly basis of each year”.

RESOLVED – that in view of the Notice of Motion not being seconded this item could not be considered.

45. **BYERLEY PARK PLAY AREA**

The Works Manager submitted a report for members to consider proposals from play equipment companies to refurbish the play area at Byerley Park. A sum of £40,000 had been included in the Capital Works Programme to refurbish the play area. Residents had been consulted, together with members of the Youth Council on the type of play equipment to be installed.

Quotations had been received from the following companies:-

Pennine Playgrounds	£39,875.84
The Play Practice	£40,000.00
Vac Playtime	£39,995.91

Officers felt that the proposed scheme from The Play Practice offered the best value for money.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the quotation from The Play Practice be accepted in the sum of £40,000.

46. **CAPITAL EXPENDITURE – EXTERNAL DECORATION**

The Leisure Manager submitted a report to update members on the planned 2011/12 asset management works to be carried out at the Oakleaf Sports Complex. A budget of £10,000 had been allocated for the works.

Quotations had been received from three companies for the external decoration:-

North East Decorators	£8,144.00
Bagnalls	£9,869.00
Mitie	£9,329.00

Officers were recommending the quotation from North East Decorators and that the remaining £1,856.00 be used for some internal decoration of the sports hall.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the quotation from North East Decorators in the sum of £8,144.00 be accepted.
- (iii) That the remaining budget of £1,856.00 be allocated to internal decoration of the sports hall.

47. **SIMPASTURE PARK – CHANGING ROOM FACILITIES**

A letter had been received from the M.P. Mr. P. Wilson on behalf of a member of the Workingmens Club Football Club who use the facilities at Simpasture Park for the installation of showers in the changing facilities.

It may be possible to obtain a grant for funding from an outside source for the provision of showers and it was felt that the Town Clerk proceed to obtain plans for the scheme in order to seek to obtain a grant.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That Town Clerk obtain the services of a surveyor / architect to provide plans for a scheme to provide showers.
- (ii) That a grant be sought for the scheme.

48. **B.M.X. TRACK**

The Town Clerk and Works Manager had submitted a report for members to consider a proposal to provide a purpose built BMX Track within Newton Aycliffe.

Initial discussion had taken place with County Councillors to utilise their member funding for this initiative.

The current BMX Track situated at Woodham Park was deteriorating and is in need of updating.

The report sought members initial views to the establishing of a track on Council land to be funded from Durham County Council Members Funding.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received and the proposal be agreed in principle.
- (ii) That further investigations be made to provide a Track on Town Council Land.
- (iii) That a public consultation exercise be arranged.

49. **BASEBALL – HORNDALE PARK**

Correspondence had been received from Newton Aycliffe Spartans baseball team for the use of the field at Horndale Park.

The team were seeking to be able to adapt the area as a baseball field and they set out various options they wished the Council to consider.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the application for the use of Horndale Park be agreed in principle.
- (ii) That the Town Clerk seek to provide a suitable agreement which would protect the Council on the use of the land.
- (iii) That the Spartans be informed that there would be no facilities for changing or showering.

CHAIRMAN.