Minutes of the meeting of the **RECREATION COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 18th OCTOBER 2017** at **8.20 pm.**

**PRESENT Councillor B Hall** (Chairman) and

Councillors Eddy Adam, M Ashcroft, Jim Atkinson, Derek G Atkinson, Kathy Beetham, P J Bergg, Bill Blenkinsopp, Mrs D Bowman, Arun M Chandran, B A Clare, J D Clare, J Clark, Mrs M Dalton, R S Fleming, I Gray, George C Gray, Mrs S Haigh, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, Kate Hopper, Mrs V M Raw, Ken Robson and Sally Symons.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor Paul Symons

**OFFICIALS** Mr D Austin (Finance Manager)

Mr A Bailey (Town Clerk)

Mr S Cooper (Works and Environment Manager)

Mrs M J Robinson (Leisure & Environment Assistant)

Mrs J Thexton (Leisure Manager)

Mr L Williams (Grounds Maintenance Service Coordinator)

48. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Dave Hardaker, M Iveson and Mrs S J Iveson.

49. **MEMBERS’ DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

50. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

51. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Mr Bernie Borsberry spoke in support of the letter from Newton Aycliffe Youth Football Club about the amount of dog fouling on School Aycliffe Football Pitches. He explained that the Club was an F A Charter Standard Community Club, providing safe and affordable football for approximately 275 boys and girls which was possible due to the excellent facilities and assistance of Great Aycliffe Town Council. He advised of increasing problems with dog fouling on the pitches with games having to be stopped because of players falling on faeces and football boots being contaminated. Volunteers from the Club and parents inspect the pitches prior to each game, picking up any faeces they find and have collected 2-3 bags on pitch 1 on two consecutive weeks.

52. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R S Fleming, seconded by Councillor

M Ashcroft and

**RESOLVED** - that the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 6th September 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

53. **GOLF WORKING GROUP**

The notes and recommendations of the Golf Working Group held on 21st September 2017 were considered:

i) That the proposed amendments to the Golf Club Constitution be accepted.

ii) That an area of rough be allowed to develop down the right hand side of the fairway to allow buggies to access the Golf Course.

iii) That two rounds of nine holes be available for play most of the year on the driest part of the Course, the holes being 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10,11,12 and 16.

iv) That the Head Green Keeper would evaluate the condition of the Course each morning to determine whether play was suitable for 18 holes, two rounds of 9 holes, or none at all.

v) That it be noted that a league match would be played at the Oakleaf, once per season.

It was proposed by Councillor R S Fleming, seconded by Councillor Jim Atkinson and

**RESOLVED** - that the notes of the meeting of the Golf Course Working Group held on the 21st September 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

54. **FESTIVAL WORKING GROUP**

The notes and recommendations of the Festival Working Group held on 11th October 2017 were considered.

* 1. The date of the 2018 Aycliffe Festival be referred to the Recreation Committee.
  2. The organiser of the STEM event be requested to submit a complete breakdown of costs with supporting documentation for the 2017 event.
  3. That a letter be written to the organisers of the Agnew Centre Fun Day advising that the amount of £1046.25 is to be refunded to the Council within 21 days or proceedings will commence to recover the debt.

It was proposed by Councillor R S Fleming, seconded by Councillor Jim Atkinson

**RESOLVED** - that the notes of the meeting of the Festival Working Group held on the 11th October 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

55. **OAKLEAF GOLF COMPLEX REPORT**

The Town Clerk and Golf Administrator submitted a report for the period ending 8th October 2017. The report gave comparisons of income from the corresponding periods in 2015 and 2016 and income and expenditure from shop sales as well as the usage statistics for the 6 months from 1st April 2017.

The report also advised of a complaint regarding restrictions on use of buggies during wet winter weather. Draft policies for buggy use in winter months and also for use generally were submitted for members’ consideration.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended that:

1. The report be received.
2. The draft policies be approved.

56. **OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX – USAGE COMPARISONS**

The Leisure Manager submitted a report which detailed the income and usage for August 2017 and the same period in 2016.

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

57. **OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX NEW DEVELOPMENTS**

The Leisure Manager submitted a report which advised of the success of the Sedgefield Schools’ Partnership’s multi sports event which had taken place.

**RESOLVED** - that it be recommended that the report be received.

58. **OUTSIDE EVENTS**

The Leisure Manager submitted a report which advised the current rules regarding distribution of wrist bands and advertising for the Firework Display 2017.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended that:

* + 1. The report be received.
    2. Rules on the distribution of wristbands be changed to:

"Wristbands can only be obtained by people who reside in the parish of Great Aycliffe, to a maximum of 8, although residents may collect wristbands to take family and friends who do not reside in the parish. Further wristbands may be granted in special circumstances at the discretion of the officers."

59. **OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX 40th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**

The Leisure Manager submitted a report requesting members to consider staging a celebration of the Oakleaf Sports Complex’s 40th Birthday and to set a budget for the event.

**RESOLVED** - that it be recommended that:

1. The report be received.
2. A suitable celebration be organised.

60. **PARKS UPDATE**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report which detailed the checks and repairs carried out in the parks and vandalism which had occurred.

The report also advised that signage regarding feeding wildfowl in West Park was to be ordered with the wording:

“Thank you for not feeding us bread. Bread makes us ill, as it does not contain the right nutrition or calories that we need to keep us warm in winter. Rotting bread pollutes our water and causes nasty surface algae, which kills our fish and gives us diseases. It also makes our water smell. We DO LIKE: cut seedless grapes, cooked rice, birdseed, peas, corn, oats and chopped lettuce.”

**RESOLVED** - that it be recommended that:

1. The report be received.
2. Signs with the above wording be placed in the Park.

61. **WEST PARK FITNESS EQUIPMENT**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report to update members regarding the condition of the Fit Out equipment at West Park with a recommendation that all the Fit Out Equipment be removed.

**RESOLVED** - that it be recommended that:

* + 1. The report be received.
    2. The equipment which is beyond repair be removed, tarmac repaired and suitable furniture be installed in their place.

62. **COBBLERS HALL PLAY AREA**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report to update members on the procurement process for the play area at Cobblers Hall Play Area.

**RESOLVED** - that it be recommended that:

1. The report be received.
2. A brief consultation on the two designs be carried out and the findings be brought to a future meeting of the Recreation Committee.

63. **SENIOR CITIZENS’ EXCURSIONS**

The Leisure and Environment Assistant submitted a report which gave information regarding the costs of the inclusion of a steam train ride on the North York Moors Railway as part of the Scarborough excursion.

**RESOLVED** - that it be recommended that:

1. The report be received.
2. The outcome of further discussion regarding various options for the North Yorkshire excursion and a possible excursion to Beamish Museum be brought back to the Recreation Committee for consideration in November.

64. **DOG FOULING – OAKLEAF PITCHES**

Members considered a letter from Newton Aycliffe Youth Football Club complaining about the amount of dog faeces on the pitches. The Club requested that “dogs should only be allowed to walk the Oakleaf if they are on a leash”.

**RESOLVED** - that it be recommended that:

1. The letter be received.
2. A number of large notices be placed around the School Aycliffe playing fields advising that young children and youths play sports on the pitches. That dogs should not be exercised on the sports pitches.
3. A letter be written to the local press requesting that dog owners not exercise their dogs on the sports pitches to discourage irresponsible dog owners from allowing their animals to foul the pitches and advising that the perimeter of the site only should be used.
4. Park Patrol be requested to intensify patrols and observations in this area.
5. Durham County Council be requested to increase warden patrols in this area.
6. Newton Aycliffe Youth Football Club be asked to support the Council by sending a letter to the Newton News.

65. **2018/2019 DRAFT REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS**

The Finance Manager had submitted a draft Revenue and Capital Budget for 2018/2019 for members’ consideration in respect of the Recreation Committee.

Members considered each section of the Budgets for the Recreation Committee and

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended that the report and draft Revenue and Capital Budget figures for 2018/19 be received.

**CHAIRMAN.**