

Minutes of the meeting of the **RECREATION COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **9<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2014** at **7.50 p.m.**

**PRESENT**      **Councillor B Hall** (Chairman) and  
Councillors E Adam, J Atkinson, B Blenkinsopp, A M Chandran, Mrs B A Clare, J D Clare, J Clark, N Collinson, Mrs M Dalton, R S Fleming, I Gray, G C Gray, K Henderson, Mrs I Hewitson, J P Hillary, Mrs W P Hillary, M Iveson, Mrs S J Iveson, P Kjenstad and C Wheeler.

**OFFICIALS**    Mr A Bailey (Town Clerk)  
Mrs M J Robinson (Leisure & Environment Assistant)  
Mrs J Thexton (Leisure Manager)  
Mr D Thompson (Works Manager)  
Miss J Welch (Golf Manager)

99.    **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors R Bowman, M A Dalton, Mrs S Haigh, W Iveson, Mrs V M Raw, D Summers and T Twissell.

100.   **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

101.   **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

102.   **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Mr Campbell of the Oakleaf Golf Club asked about changes made to the Golf Club Constitution by the Golf Working Group.

He commented that negotiation seems irrelevant and that the Golf Club is just an extension of the Council and the Constitution can be changed at any point. Golf Club Officers' decisions can be overridden.

Members of the Oakleaf Golf Club were under the impression that the Club operated as a separate entity with all members of the Committee working towards the advancement of golf.

When Woodham golfers were allowed to run their own section and the ladies arrived and they did not have to join the Oakleaf Golf Club either, this was not working towards the advancement of golf.

The Town Clerk responded to Mr Campbell's comments by explaining the history of the Club and how it was set up by the Council.

The Club is a welcome guest that operates on the Council's golf course with the permission of the Council as owner and proprietor of the Golf complex, and as such, the Council does indeed have the ultimate say regarding its use.

There had been significant failings in regard to the running of the Club Section over the previous years, and confusion regarding changes to the Constitution when, and indeed if they had been implemented.

The Club approached the Council for assistance when governance issues arose and indeed non-compliance with the Constitution. Council members had particular concerns regarding auditing of accounts and approval at the AGM.

Durham County Golf Union had also approached the Council directly regarding problems with handicaps and fee payment to the Durham County Golf Union.

The Council, through its Golf Complex Working Group considered the issues and requested a new Constitution to be drawn up in draft. This was based on the Constitution currently operated by the Club, reference to the original Constitution and updated and improved where required. This was discussed with the Golf Club and one item remained unresolved in regard to Officers of the Club.

In order to avoid further problems due to changes in the Club Constitution in future, any changes that have been proposed by the Club must be ratified by the Council as the owner and proprietor of the Golf Complex.

It was also pointed out that the Council had, during the recruitment process, decided to have a greater involvement in the Club with a view to improving the service at the Golf Complex.

All season ticket holders would be required to be members of the Club. The Golf Manager would be Secretary and the Council would offer the assistance of its Finance Manager and Internal Auditor to the Club.

It was, therefore, hoped that changes made to the Constitution and financial recommendations would have a positive effect with all parties working together to improve the service offered.

Communication would be improved by having the Golf Manager as Secretary and having an additional officer on the Management Committee.

However, it was pointed out that if agreement could not be reached, or if the management committee felt it could not work with the Council, to the new Constitution, then the Council would have to take action to ensure competitive golf would continue to be available to all members.

A temporary committee would be set up with officers and volunteers (golf members) to assist. Durham County Golf Union had been consulted and would recognise this as long as fees are paid, tee times available and a Handicap Sub-Committee set up.

103. **MINUTES**

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

**RESOLVED** - that the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the **26<sup>th</sup> February 2014** be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

104. **GOLF COURSE WORKING GROUP NOTES**

Notes and recommendations from the meetings of the Golf Course Working Group held on the **27<sup>th</sup> February, 10<sup>th</sup> March and 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014** were considered.

Councillor G C Gray pointed out that the change to the Constitution stating only 7 day members could be members of the management committee discriminated against 5 day members who may wish to serve.

It was advised that it is normal for only full (7 day) members to serve on such a committee. This had been the position in the original club Constitution prior to changes being made.

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

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

105. **SHOW WORKING GROUP**

Members were requested to note that the Show Working Group scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> April had been cancelled.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended that it be so noted.

106. **OAKLEAF GOLF COMPLEX REPORT**

The Town Clerk and Golf Manager submitted their report for the six weeks ending 30<sup>th</sup> March 2014. The report gave comparisons of income from the corresponding periods in 2012 and 2013 and advised of teaching and promotional initiatives to increase attendance had been started.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended that

1. the report be received.
2. there be a three yearly annual comparison of season ticket income for the next meeting.

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

The Leisure Manager submitted a report for six weeks ending 30<sup>th</sup> March 2014. The report compared usage figures and income from the same period in 2013.

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

108. **OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX**

The Leisure Manager submitted a report for the six weeks ending 30<sup>th</sup> March 2014. The report gave information regarding the Energy Display Certificate and a series of new exercise classes.

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

109. **OUTSIDE EVENTS**

The Leisure and Environment Officer submitted a report which requested members to consider the quotations which had been received for coach transport for the 2014 Senior Citizens' Excursions and the report also gave an update from the Leisure Manager regarding the Firework Display

**RESOLVED** - that it be recommended that

1. the report be received.
2. the non-wheelchair accessible transport contract be awarded to Lee's of Durham.
3. the wheelchair accessible transport contract be awarded to Stanley Travel.
4. the updated information regarding the firework display be noted.
5. contact be made with SAG to hasten the process.

110. **OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX RECEPTION REFURBISHMENT**

The Leisure Manager submitted a report which gave details and quotations for the refurbishment of the reception area of the Oakleaf Sports Complex.

**RESOLVED** - that it be recommended that

1. the report be received.
2. the contract for replacing the reception desk be awarded to Eiskalt at a cost of £8,750.00.
3. HAS be requested to re-site the CCTV monitor at a cost of £250.00.
4. a contingency sum of £500 be added.

111. **OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX ROOF REPAIRS**

The Leisure Manager submitted a report which set out details of historic roofing problems experienced with the bar roof at the Oakleaf Sports Complex. The report requested members to consider the options 2 or 3 suggested by structural surveyors, Harrison and Johnson.

**RESOLVED** - that it be recommended that

1. the report be received.
2. option 3, to utilise Sarnafill be accepted.
3. a request be made to the Policy and Resources Committee for an additional £20,000 to be taken from earmarked reserves to meet the estimated cost.

**CHAIRMAN.**