

Minutes of the meeting of the **RECREATION COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 4th SEPTEMBER 2013** at **7.45 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, G C Gray, I Gray, Mrs S Haigh,
B Hall, K Henderson, Mrs I Hewitson, J P Hillary,
Mrs W P Hillary, M Iveson, Mrs S J Iveson, W Iveson,
P Kjenstad, Mrs V M Raw, D Summers, and C Wheeler

OFFICIALS Mr A Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mr S Cooper (Environment Officer)
Mrs M J Robinson (Leisure & Environment Assistant)
Mrs J Thexton (Leisure Manager)

31. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors M A Dalton, T Twissell and Mr N Whinham (Golf Professional).

32. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

33. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

34. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Mrs Maud Gray made a statement regarding West Park Lakes, agenda item No. 11. Mrs Gray advised that she was speaking on behalf of the residents around West Park Lakes. Mrs Gray said that nobody from the Council appeared to be doing anything about the algae. The only maintenance that was being carried out was litter picking. She asked for the Lakes to be looked after and cleaned on a regular basis.

35. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R S Fleming, seconded by Councillor Mrs M Dalton and

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the **3rd July 2013** be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

36. **GOLF COURSE WORKING GROUP**

It was proposed by Councillor R S Fleming, seconded by Councillor J Hillary and

RESOLVED - that the notes of the meeting of the Golf Course Working Group held on the **4th July 2013** be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

37. **OAKLEAF GOLF COMPLEX REPORT**

The Town Clerk and Golf Professional submitted their report for the nine weeks ended the 25th August 2013. The report gave comparisons of income from the corresponding period in 2012. The report also gave the comparisons between the financial years 2011/12 and 2012/13.

The Town Clerk advised that the Golf Professional, Mr Neil Whinham had tendered his resignation and would be leaving in December. The Town Clerk also advised that the Golf Working Group would be considering the options available for operation of the Golf Course and Driving Range.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i the report be received.
- ii letters of congratulations be sent to Andrew Neasham and Daniel Shevill for their recent golfing success.

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

The Leisure Manager submitted a report for the nine weeks ended the 25th August 2013. The report compared usage figures and income from the corresponding period in 2012.

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

39. **BAR / FUNCTION ROOM CARPET – CAPITAL SPEND**

The Leisure Manager submitted a report which requested members to consider the purchase of new flooring for the function room and bar area.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that:

- i The report be received.
- ii Hotel standard carpet be used for the main seating area of the bar together with safety flooring and vinyl.
- iii Commercial quality carpet be supplied for the function room.
- iv Dobermans carry out the work at a cost of £11,794.
- v A contingency back up of £800 be added to the budget.

40. **FORMER PLAY AREA – BLUEBELL MEADOWS**

The Works Manager submitted a report which asked members to consider grassing over a former play area at Bluebell Meadows.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that

- i the report be received.
- ii the tarmac and wall be removed.
- iii the area be grassed over.

41. **WEST PARK LAKES**

A joint report from the Works Manager and Environment Officer requested members to consider an item raised by Councillor A M Chandran regarding the maintenance of the lakes in West Park.

The matter of lakes maintenance and algae was explained by the Environment Officer and members discussed at length various options which could be explored to alleviate the problem. Members also commented on lakes in different locations and how they were managed for activities or ecology.

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that:

- i the report be received.
- ii the lakes continued to be monitored as indicated in the report.

CHAIRMAN.