

RECREATION COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 4th SEPTEMBER 2019

Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on Wednesday, 4th September 2019 at 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor B. Hall, (Chairman) and
Councillors Eddy Adam, M Ashcroft, Derek G. Atkinson, Jim Atkinson, Kathy Beetham, Bill Blenkinsopp, Mrs D. Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, J. Clark, Mrs M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, George C. Gray, Mrs S. Haigh, Jed Hillary, Kate Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs S.J. Iveson, Mrs V.M. Raw, Paul Symons and Sally Symons

OFFICERS

Mr A. Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mr S. Cooper (Works and Environment Manager)
Miss A. Donald (Town Clerk's PA)
Mrs J. Thexton (Leisure Manager)
Mr L. Williams (Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator)

34. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors P.J. Bergg, I. Gray, Dave Hardaker Wendy Hillary and Ken Robson.

35. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

No applications for dispensations had been received.

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

37. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were three questions from members of the public.

- i) A member of the public raised the issue of anti-social behaviour in Cobbler's Hall Park and the Town Park.

This would be dealt with under Item 10 on the agenda.

- ii) The Secretary of the Oakleaf Golf Club thanked staff for their efforts in keeping the golf course in good condition and for their assistance prior to a recent charity event which had raised £500 for the Prostate Cancer Charity.
- iii) The Chairman of Aycliffe Village Residents' Association thanked the Council and staff for actions taken to date to improve safety concerns caused by the growth of vegetation. It was felt that these were only half

measures and some vegetation remained high. It was asked if the Residents' Association could assist in any way.

The Town Clerk stated that the works undertaken were interim measures and had advised in correspondence that further work was on the agenda for discussion, by members, later in this meeting under Item 12.

38. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor M. Iveson, seconded by Councillor M. Ashcroft, and

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee, held on the 10th July 2019, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

39. OAKLEAF GOLF COMPLEX REPORT

The Town Clerk submitted a report for the period ended 25th August 2019. The report gave comparisons of income from the corresponding periods in the previous two years for Green Fees and the Driving Range. The report also gave information regarding retail sales at the Golf Shop.

The Golf Administrator advised that poor weather had had a negative effect on green fees, although driving range and shop sales income had increased over the same period.

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

40. OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX – USAGE COMPARISONS

The Leisure Manager submitted a report with statistical information on usage for the period ending 31st July 2019. The report compared usage figures and income from the same period in the previous year.

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

41. OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX – NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The Leisure Manager submitted a report which outlined a number of new developments at the Oakleaf Sports Complex

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

42. MOUNTAIN BIKE AND ORIENTEERING FESTIVAL 2020

The Leisure Manager submitted a report requesting members to consider permitting a Mountain Bike and Orienteering Festival for primary school children to take place on the playing fields at the Oakleaf Sports Centre.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report be received.
- ii) The Mountain Bike and Orienteering Festival be permitted to take place in 2020 at the Oakleaf Sports Complex.

43. PARKS UPDATE

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report updating members on items of repair and inspection regarding the parks.

In response to the question from a member of the public, it was stated that Anti-social behaviour in the parks was an ongoing problem and staff already worked closely with the police and other agencies to deal with this. CCTV was of limited assistance in dealing with the issue. Members of the public were asked to inform the Town Council or police of any issues, contact details for the Town Council were available at the entrance to each park.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report be received.
- ii) A meeting of the Service Review Working Group be arranged to discuss safety and security in the Town Council's parks and green spaces.

44. HORTICULTURAL SHOW CANCELLATION

The Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator submitted a report informing members of the cancellation of the Horticultural Show due to lack of entries.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the report be received

45. MAINTENANCE OF AYCLIFFE VILLAGE PLAY AREA

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report regarding complaints received concerning the safety of children and adults when playing, entering or leaving the park area in Aycliffe Village, due to tall vegetation.

The Town Clerk drew attention to a number of actions already taken, and to limitations enforced by the contours of the natural landscape and the nature of the vegetation in question.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report be received.
- ii) The vegetation segregating the dog walk from the rest of the park be removed.
- iii) Officers investigate whether existing alternative machinery is suitable to cut vegetation on the slopes.
- iv) Officers' recommendations for management of the area be agreed.

CHAIRMAN.