

## RECREATION COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the **RECREATION COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, and virtually, on **WEDNESDAY, 19<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2020** at 8.20p.m.

### PRESENT

**Councillor Jed Hillary** (Chairman) and  
Councillors Eddy Adam, M Ashcroft, Derek G. Atkinson, Jim Atkinson, Kathy Beetham, P.J. Bergg, Bill Blenkinsopp, Mrs D. Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, R.S. Fleming, George C. Gray, I Gray, Mrs S. Haigh, Dave Hardaker, Wendy Hillary, Mrs V.M. Raw, Ken Robson and Paul Symons

### OFFICERS

Mr A. Bailey (Town Clerk)  
Mrs J. Thexton (Leisure Manager)  
Mrs C.A. Walton (Corporate and Policy Officer)  
Mr L. Williams (Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator)  
Miss A. Donald (Town Clerk's PA)

#### 94. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors J. Clark, Mrs M. Dalton, B. Hall, Kate Hopper, M. Iveson and Mrs S.J. Iveson.

#### 95. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

No applications for dispensations had been received.

#### 96. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 97. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A member of the public referred to noise made by youths in Cobbler's Hall play area, going on until after midnight, with bad language, alcohol drinking and banging of footballs against the MUGA. It was suggested that locking the MUGA at night to prevent football games would improve the situation.

It was advised that this issue would be covered under Item 9 on the agenda.

#### 98. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor M. Ashcroft, seconded by Councillor Kathy Beetham and

**RESOLVED** - that the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee, held on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**Councillor Bill Blenkinsopp left the meeting at this point.**

## 99. EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Dave Hardaker, seconded by Councillor M. Ashcroft, and

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting of the Events Sub-Committee, held on the 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## 100. OAKLEAF GOLF COMPLEX REPORT

The Town Clerk submitted a report for the twenty-five week period ended 9<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

It was noted that income from green fees had increased compared with the same period last year, despite the Covid-19 lockdown affecting access for the first six weeks of the period, although driving range figures were considerably decreased due to closure for the first eleven weeks and the requirement for social distancing.

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

## 101. OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX UPDATE

The Head of Leisure and Events submitted a report updating members on the measures taken to re-open various elements of the Sports Complex from 6<sup>th</sup> July, as permitted under government Covid-19 restrictions.

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

- i) The report be received.
- ii) The Head of Leisure and Events and her staff be commended for their efforts in re-opening the Sports Complex following the lockdown.

## 102. PARKS UPDATE

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report updating members on items of repair, removal and inspection regarding the parks, following their re-opening from 6<sup>th</sup> July under government Covid-19 restrictions.

Members considered possible solutions to the question from a member of the public regarding noise and anti-social behaviour from the Cobbler's Hall play area in the late evenings. It was stressed that this was largely a matter for the police and Town Council officers were already liaising with police officers.

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

- i) The report be received.
- ii) The MUGA be locked in the late evenings for a trial period to alleviate noise from footballs striking the sides.

**103. FOOTBALL SEASON 2020-21**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report updating member regarding recent football pitch allocation and related matters.

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

**CHAIRMAN.**