

RECREATION COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 14th OCTOBER 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, 14th OCTOBER 2020** at **7.55p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillor B. Hall (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, B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, J. Clark, R.S. Fleming, George C. Gray, I Gray, Dave Hardaker, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, Kate Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs S.J. Iveson, Mrs V.M. Raw, Ken Robson, Paul Symons and Sally Symons

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Michael Stead

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)
Mr S. Cooper (Works and Environment Manager)
Miss A. Donald (Town Clerk's PA)

104. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs M. Dalton.

105. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

No applications for dispensations had been received.

106. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

107. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Councillor Michael Stead had been asked if the funfair, which would be taking place on Bewick Crescent car park during the school half term holiday, was appropriate and permissible during the current Covid-19 pandemic and with the local restrictions currently in place. Of particular concern was the immediate proximity of the doctor's surgery and pharmacy.

It was noted that the Town Council did not own the land in question and was not responsible for giving permission for the funfair to take place.

Members requested that the Town Clerk write to Durham County Council to raise the issue with the appropriate department.

108. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Bill Blenkinsopp, seconded by Councillor M. Iveson, and

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee, held on the 19th August 2020, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

109. EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Events Sub-Committee, held on the 6th October 2020, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

110. OAKLEAF GOLF COMPLEX REPORT

The Town Clerk submitted a report for the eight-week period ended 4th October 2020.

It was noted that green fees had increased considerably based on the same period last year. This was due to golf being one of very few sports activities being available following the easing of lockdown restrictions, plus prolonged fine weather. Driving range income had decreased due to social distancing requirements.

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

111. DRIVING RANGE OPENING HOURS

The Golf Administrator submitted a report requesting members to consider and approve revised opening hours for the driving range to accommodate reduced demand.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report be received.
- ii) The Golf Administrator be given authority to amend the opening hours of the driving range, with the agreement of the Town Clerk.

112. OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX UPDATE

The Head of Leisure and Events submitted a report updating members on current usage of the Sports Complex.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report and information be received.
- ii) A Special Meeting of Council be held in November to consider the current situation with the Sports Complex in the light of the impact of Covid-19.

113. OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX OPENING HOURS

The Head of Leisure and Events submitted a report updating members regarding the opening hours and income at the Sports Complex and the impact of Covid-19 restrictions.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that

- i) The report and information be received.
- ii) Opening hours for catering to be adjusted at the discretion of the Head of Leisure and Events, as deemed appropriate according to usage.
- iii) Opening hours for the Sports Complex to be adjusted by the Head of Leisure and Events, in consultation with the Management Team, as appropriate and required in response to changing government restrictions.

114. PARKS UPDATE

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report updating members on items relating to the parks.

Discussion took place regarding anti-social behaviour and a number of potential solutions for Town Council property put forward.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that

- i) The report and information be received.
- ii) Officers investigate the possibility and feasibility of using gates, fencing or strategically-placed boulders to restrict access by unauthorised vehicles where this is an issue.
- iii) The possibility and feasibility of CCTV coverage for West Park be investigated.

CHAIRMAN.