

RECREATION COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 13th OCTOBER 2021

Minutes of the meeting of the **RECREATION COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 13th OCTOBER 2021 at 8.30pm**

PRESENT

Councillor Carl Robinson (Chairman) and:
Councillors Eddy Adam, Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Jim Atkinson, Peter Bergg, Arun M. Chandran, Barbara Clare, John Clare, John Clark, Neil Collinson, Bob Fleming, George Gray, Ian Gray, Brian Haigh, Mrs Sandra Haigh, Phillip Hawkins, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, Kate Hopper, Joanne Jones, Neville Jones, John Moore, Ken Robson, and Michael Stead

OFFICERS

Mr. D. Austin (Town Clerk)
Mrs T. Woodhead (Finance Manager)
Mr. S. Cooper (Works and Environment Manager)
Mr. L. Williams (Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator)
Mrs. J. Thexton (Head of Leisure and Events)
Miss A. Donald (Town Clerk's PA)

Members stood to observe a minute's silence in memory of the late Councillor Brian Hall, long-serving Chairman of the Recreation Committee, and also of Councillor Dave Hardaker.

40. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dorothy Bowman and Maureen Shelton.

41. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

No applications for dispensations had been received.

42. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

43. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

44. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Arun Chandran, seconded by Councillor Martin Ashcroft, and

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee, held on the 1st September 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

45. OAKLEAF GOLF COMPLEX REPORT

The Golf Administrator and Head of Leisure and Events submitted a report for the seven-week period ended 3rd October 2021.

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft, seconded by Councillor Carl Robinson, and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report be received.
- ii) A letter be sent to Mr A Neasham expressing congratulations regarding his recent achievement of being accepted onto the PGA Professional degree course.

46. OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX USAGE COMPARISONS

The Head of Leisure and Events submitted a report and statistical information related to the attendance and income at the Oakleaf Sports Complex for August 2021 compared with August 2020 and August 2019.

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

47. OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The Head of Leisure and Events submitted a report updating members on progress with developing new activities.

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

48. PARKS UPDATE

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

Discussion took place regarding a recent episode of vandalism involving the newly planted community orchard at Horndale. Members requested that officers give careful consideration to the re-location of surviving trees, with a number of suggestions being put forward.

It was proposed by Councillor Arun M. Chandran, seconded by Councillor Ken Robson, that

- i) The Town Clerk be requested to investigate the Council's legal options regarding the recovery of costs via a private prosecution should the perpetrators be positively identified by the police.

It was additionally proposed by Councillor John Clare, seconded by Councillor Bob Fleming, that:

- i) Consideration be given to 're-wilding' the Horndale area by letting the grass grow, prior to planting whips in the long grass.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report be received.
- ii) The Town Clerk be requested to investigate the Council's legal options regarding the recovery of costs via a private prosecution should the perpetrators be positively identified by the police.
- iii) Consideration be given to 're-wilding' the Horndale area by letting the grass grow, prior to planting whips in the long grass.

49. SPORTS COMPLEX WORKING GROUP

It was proposed by Councillor Arun M. Chandran and seconded by Councillor Martin Ashcroft that a Sports Complex Working Group be set up, comprising the following members:

Councillors Ken Robson, Arun M. Chandran, George Gray, Martin Ashcroft, Phillip Hawkins, Carl Robinson, with two members each from the Liberal Democrat Party and Labour Party.

For the Liberal Democrat and Labour nominees, there would be a right of substitution in the event that one of their nominated members could not attend the meeting.

Councillor Eddy Adam confirmed that he wished to be a member of the Working Group as one of the Labour Party representatives.

The remaining members would be notified to the Town Clerk in due course.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that a Sports Complex Working Group be set up, with the above membership, and a first meeting arranged in due course.

50. 2022/23 DRAFT RECREATION BUDGETS

The Finance Manager submitted a report presenting the draft 2022/23 Revenue and Capital Budgets for the Recreation Committee for members' discussion, comments, and approval.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Eddy Adam, seconded by Councillor Jim Atkinson, and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report and draft budgets be received
- ii) The draft 2022/23 Recreation Revenue and Capital Budgets be approved.
- iii) The planned replacement of Simpasture Pavilion roof be removed from the draft capital budget and referred instead to the Asset Management Member Working Group for consideration of a feasibility study regarding seeking GAMP funding for more substantial improvements to the building.

51. ST OSWALD'S MEMORIAL SEAT REQUEST

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a request from a member of the public for the installation of a memorial seat within St Oswald's Park, to be provided at the family's expense.

It was proposed by Councillor Bob Fleming, seconded by Councillor John Clare, and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report be received.
- ii) Permission be granted for the installation of a memorial seat, of a suitable cast iron and metal design in an appropriate location within St Oswald's Park.
- iii) That the principle of allowing memorial seats to be installed in Council parks be agreed.

CHAIRMAN.