

RECREATION COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 1st SEPTEMBER 2021

Minutes of the meeting of the **RECREATION COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 1st SEPTEMBER 2021 at 8.20pm**

PRESENT

Councillor Carl Robinson (Chairman) and:
Councillors Eddy Adam, Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Peter Bergg, Arun M. Chandran, John Clark, Neil Collinson, Bob Fleming, George Gray, Ian Gray, Brian Haigh, Mrs Sandra Haigh, Dave Hardaker, Kate Hopper, John Moore, Ken Robson, and Michael Stead

OFFICERS

Mr. D. Austin (Town Clerk)
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)

27. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jim Atkinson, Dorothy Bowman, Barbara Clare, John Clare, Brian Hall, Phillip Hawkins, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, Joanne Jones, Neville Jones and Maureen Shelton.

28. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

No applications for dispensations had been received.

29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Carl Robinson declared a non-pecuniary interest under Item 6 as a member of the Oakleaf Golf Club.

30. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

31. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Bob Fleming, seconded by Councillor Martin Ashcroft, and

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee, held on the 14th July 2021, be confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Carl Robinson left the meeting for discussion of the next agenda item and Councillor George Gray took the chair.

32. OAKLEAF GOLF COMPLEX REPORT

The Golf Administrator and Finance Manager submitted a report for the seven-week period ended 22nd August 2021.

It was proposed by Councillor Arun M. Chandran, seconded by Councillor Bob Fleming, and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report and information be received.
- ii) It be noted that a town-wide golf competition, in conjunction with the Oak Leaf Golf Club, will be held on Saturday 4th September 2021.
- iii) Course courtesy be granted for this free-to-enter competition.
- iv) The Council agrees to fund a proposed £400 prize fund to be provided as vouchers to spend in the golf shop and funded from the Community Events budget.

Councillor Carl Robinson returned to the meeting and took the chair.

33. OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX UPDATE

The Head of Leisure and Events submitted a report to update members on the Oak Leaf Sports Complex for the seven-week period ended 22nd August 2021.

The appointment of a Sports Complex Manager, to commence work in the second week of September 2021, was noted.

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft, seconded by Councillor Ken Robson, and

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

34. PARKS UPDATE

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

It was noted that anti-social behaviour was taking place in the Town Park, generally by a known group of individuals and concern was raised about the police response to these issues.

It was proposed by Councillor Arun Chandran, seconded by Councillor Peter Bergg, and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report be received.
- ii) A letter be sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable requesting clarification as to why a police response was not readily available to recent incidents in the Town Park, when help was requested.

35. AYCLIFFE VILLAGE FOOTPATH REPORT

The Town Clerk and Works and Environment Manager submitted a report updating members on the latest situation regarding the planned installation of an access footpath to Aycliffe Village play area including the discussions with Durham County Council about the route of the footpath.

Members were requested to consider a number of options available in order to progress this project.

It was advised that a site visit would be taking place between representatives from DCC Assets and Public Rights of Way Departments and the Town Clerk and Works and Environment Manager on Friday 4th September. Members were invited to attend if they wished to.

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

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report be received
- ii) The works be left on hold pending the outcome of the forthcoming site visit and a positive conclusion to the discussions around the route of the footpath.

36. DOG PARK FEASIBILITY STUDY

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report requesting members to consider the feasibility of creating a community dog park within Newton Aycliffe, as requested following a motion from Councillor Neil Collinson to the July Recreation Committee Meeting.

After considerable discussion and debate it was proposed by Councillor Arun M. Chandran, seconded by Councillor Bob Fleming that the feasibility study is not progressed.

A vote was taken, and the proposal was carried by 9 votes to 8.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report be received.
- ii) The Works and Environment Manager be thanked for his work on the report.
- iii) The feasibility study is not progressed.

37. EXEMPT BUSINESS

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

RESOLVED – that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it was, in the opinion of the Council, advisable that the public and press be excluded from the meeting.

38. PARKS EXCLUSION

The Corporate Management Team submitted a report providing members with information regarding an incident in the Town Park, which required action to be taken under the Council's Exclusion Policy.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Arun M. Chandran, seconded by Councillor Martin Ashcroft, and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report and information be received.
- ii) Parks Exclusion Notices be applied as follows:

Youth 1	12 months
Youth 2	12 months
Youths 3-6	6 months
- iii) A meeting be requested with local police officers regarding the enforcement of exclusion notices.
- iv) Officers be given delegated authority to impose exclusion notices, with a subsequent report to the Council to endorse, or otherwise, the decision.
- v) Officers be requested to consider what additional support may be provided to the Park Patrol officers in light of potentially dangerous or upsetting incidents.

39. RE-ADMISSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the press and public be re-admitted to the meeting.

CHAIRMAN.