

EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE

MONDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2021

Minutes of the meeting of the **EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **MONDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2021** at **6.00 pm**.

PRESENT: Councillor Martin Ashcroft (Chairman) and
Councillors Dorothy Bowman, Mrs Sandra Haigh, Phillip Hawkins,
Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, and Carl Robinson

OFFICERS

Mr D. Austin (Town Clerk)
Mrs J. Thexton (Head of Leisure and Events)
Miss A. Donald (Town Clerk's PA)
Mrs R. Goddard (Clerical Assistant to Head of Leisure and Events)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Joanne Jones, Neville Jones, Ken Robson, and Maureen Shelton.

2. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

No requests for dispensations had been received.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no questions from members of the public.

5. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Jed Hillary, seconded by Councillor Carl Robinson, and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Events Sub-Committee, held on 22nd June 2021, which had been previously agreed, be received.

6. COUNCIL EVENTS UPDATE

The Head of Leisure and Events submitted a report updating members on the Council's community events programme for 2021/22.

It was noted that there was still some uncertainty regarding Covid restrictions affecting many events and it was becoming increasingly difficult to obtain a guarantee of a refund in the case of cancellation. In some cases, a non-refundable advance payment was also being requested by organisations to cover their costs.

Senior Citizens' Excursions

The Head of Leisure and Events had prepared a suggested outline programme of excursions for members' approval. Prices had risen considerably and, in order to stay within budget, a two-course meal would be provided rather than a three-course.

Following discussion it was agreed that an enhanced programme of excursions be offered for 2022, with a number of suggested destinations put forward by members to be considered by the Head of Leisure and Events.

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft, seconded by Councillor Jed Hillary and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) An additional £5,000 budget be made available from the Council's Covid Recovery Fund to offer a programme of excursions with enhancements such as a boat trip, canal cruise or train ride as appropriate.
- iii) The Head of Leisure and Events draft a further programme of enhanced excursions for members' consideration at a future meeting.

Fun in the Parks

The format and programme for the Fun in the Parks events for 2022 were considered.

Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor Jed Hillary, seconded by Councillor Carl Robinson and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The traditional programme of eight Fun-in-the-Parks events be provided in 2022.
- ii) One of the eight events to be larger and held in the Town Park.
- iii) An additional budget of £5,000 to be made available from the Covid Recovery Fund for the Town Park event.

Skate Fest

It was noted that the Skate Fest was organised in conjunction with a professional skate company, which supplied skaters and a programme for the event. A reply was awaited regarding available dates for the skaters.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the event proceed, subject to an available date being agreed.

Big Brass Bash

It was noted that this event was part of a festival organised by Durham County Council. To date, no information had been received from the County Council about the 2022 event.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the Head of Leisure and Events contact Durham County Council to ascertain if the festival is planned to proceed in 2022.

Fireworks Display

The Fireworks Display had taken place on 5th November. The event had been very successful and well received by the public.

Santa Tours

Planning for the Santa Tours on 24th December 2021 was at an advanced stage with all vehicles and volunteers in place.

It was suggested that officers contact Council Members via e-mail for reserve volunteers if a last-minute stand-in is required.

Santa Letters

Members discussed the possibility of including a small gift with each Santa letter reply sent out.

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

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) A small gift be included in each child's Santa reply.
- ii) The gift to be included on a four-year rotational basis as suggested in the officer's report.
- iii) An additional budget provision for the gifts be made as part of the 2022/23 budget setting process.

Santa's Grotto

Members were advised that although this item had not been progressed, the Town Council already offered a similar event in the form of Breakfast with Santa at the Sports Complex and, in previous years, other organisations had provided a Santa's Grotto in the Town Centre.

It was proposed by Councillor Carl Robinson, seconded by Councillor Wendy Hillary and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the provision of a Santa's Grotto not be progressed.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Information had been received from HRH the Queen's Pageant Master regarding the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations and members were requested to consider how the Town Council could celebrate the occasion.

Members discussed the suggestion made by the Head of Leisure and Events that a picnic could be held on the Oakleaf field. Councillor Jed Hillary asked if it would be possible to find a local piper to play in the evening, as suggested in national guidelines and it was agreed to investigate this.

It was proposed by Councillor Jed Hillary, seconded by Councillor Carl Robinson and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) Further consideration be given to holding a picnic at the Oakleaf site on 2nd June 2022.
- ii) The Council's beacon be lit in line with national recommendations.
- iii) The possibility of having a local piper play at the lighting of the beacon is investigated
- iv) The Council's Large Community Event budget be used to support the costs of the above event as well as providing grants to any other community events, such as street parties, being held to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee.

7. TRI-GOLF SCHOOLS EVENT

The Head of Leisure and Events submitted a report requesting permission for a Tri-Golf Festival for primary school children to take place on the playing fields at the rear of the Oakleaf Sports Complex on 17th and 18th May 2022.

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

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) Permission be given for the Tri-Golf Festival to take place on the Oakleaf Sports Field in May 2022.
- ii) A voucher be given to all children attending for a free small basket of range balls, redeemable with a small basket of range balls purchased by an adult at the Oakleaf Golf Complex.
- iii) Club hire for use with the range balls voucher be offered free of charge to participating children.

Chairman