

RECREATION COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 24th NOVEMBER 2021

Minutes of the meeting of the **RECREATION COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 24th NOVEMBER 2021 at 7.55pm**

PRESENT

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

OFFICERS

Mr. D. Austin (Town Clerk)
Mr. S. Cooper (Works and Environment Manager)
Mrs. J. Thexton (Head of Leisure and Events)
Mr A. Clark (Sports Complex Manager)
Miss A. Donald (Town Clerk's PA)

52. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brian Haigh, Sandra Haigh, Wendy Hillary, John Moore, and Maureen Shelton.

53. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

No applications for dispensations had been received.

54. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

55. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

56. MINUTES

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

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee, held on the 13th October 2021, be confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

57. SPORTS COMPLEX WORKING GROUP NOTES

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

RESOLVED – that the notes of the meeting of the Sports Complex Working Group, held on the 2nd November 2021, be confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

58. EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Events Sub-Committee, held on the 8th November 2021, be confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

59. OAKLEAF GOLF COMPLEX REPORT

The Golf Administrator and Head of Leisure and Events submitted a report for the seven-week period ended 14th November 2021.

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

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

It was further proposed by Councillor Carl Robinson, seconded by Councillor Arun M. Chandran and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The rapid actions of officers and staff in dealing with a recent medical emergency on the golf course, and their subsequent production of a Medical Emergency Protocol for distribution to all golf course users, be commended.

Councillor Bob Fleming drew members' attention to the details of the medical emergency and the timely action taken by Councillor Carl Robinson in personally escorting the victim to hospital, for which members' expressed their appreciation.

60. OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX UPDATE AND OPENING HOURS REVIEW

The Head of Leisure and Events and the Sports Complex Manager submitted a update report on the situation at the Complex, requesting that members consider the opening hours following the post-COVID re-opening.

After a lengthy discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Arun M. Chandran, seconded by Councillor Bob Fleming, and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report be received, and officers thanked for the detailed information provided.
- ii) The sports complex opening hours return to their pre-COVID times as soon as ongoing staff recruitment allowed this.
- iii) A service review of the sports complex be undertaken by the Service Review Working Group in six months' time.

61. 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 September and October 2021 compared with the same period in 2020.

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

62. 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

- i) The report and information be received.
- ii) Permission be given to officers to make arrangements for the sports hall to be used to host a boxing event by Boxing Hall Promotions in March 2022.

63. PARKS UPDATE

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

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

64. EMERGENCY WORKS – OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX

Councillor Dorothy Bowman left the meeting during discussion of this item.

The Sports Complex Manager submitted a report advising members of emergency works which had ordered, under the Town Clerk's delegated powers, on the kitchen roof of the Sports Complex, to be funded from the Capital Programme Budget in place for other roofing works at the sports complex.

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

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report be received.
- ii) The Town Clerk's emergency authorisation of roofing works at a cost of £9,250 be approved.
- iii) An additional capital budget approval of £9,250 be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

65. OUTDOOR EXERCISE EQUIPMENT PROPOSAL

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report requesting members to consider an opportunity to obtain grant funding to purchase and install static outdoor exercise equipment on Council land at the Oakleaf Sports Complex.

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

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report and information be received.
- ii) Officers proceed to make a grant application for this proposal.

It was further proposed by Councillor Jed Hillary, seconded by Councillor Bob Fleming and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) Further consideration be given to installing similar equipment on the Great Aycliffe Way.

66. SAFETY FENCING PROPOSAL

The Head of Leisure and Events submitted a report requesting members to consider purchasing safety fencing for use at community events.

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft, seconded by Councillor Eddy Adam, and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report be received.
- ii) The underspend on the Council's Events Budget be used to purchase all required crowd control and Heras fencing in line with officers' recommendations.

CHAIRMAN.