

RECREATION COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2022

Minutes of the meeting of the **RECREATION COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 23rd FEBRUARY 2022 at 8.23pm**

PRESENT

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

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 (Corporate and Policy Officer)
Mr. A. Clark (Sports Complex Manager)

77. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

78. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

No applications for dispensations had been received.

79. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman, Councillor Carl Robinson, declared an interest under Agenda Items 6 and 8 as a member of the Oakleaf Golf Complex.

80. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

81. MINUTES

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

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee, held on the 12th January 2022, be confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

The Vice Chairman, Councillor George Gray, took the chair for the following item.

82. GOLF WORKING GROUP NOTES

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

RESOLVED – that the notes of the meeting of the Golf Working Group, held on 24th January 2022, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to item 6 of the notes being amended to state that a visit to the golf course could be arranged for any councillor who wished to attend, rather than for any councillors who had not yet visited it.

Councillor Carl Robinson resumed the chair for the following item.

83. EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

Following discussion regarding the planning senior citizens' trips excursion destinations, it was proposed by Councillor Eddy Adam, seconded by Councillor Jim Atkinson, and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Events Sub-Committee, held on 25th January 2022, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Vice Chairman, Councillor George Gray, took the chair for the following item.

84. OAKLEAF GOLF COMPLEX REPORT

The Golf Administrator and Head of Leisure and Events submitted a report for the seven-week period ended 13th February 2022.

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft, seconded by Councillor Jim Atkinson, and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that

- i) The report be received.
- ii) A town-wide golf competition be arranged in conjunction with Oak Leaf Golf Club to be held on Saturday 25th June 2022, including the requirement for course courtesy on the day, and the Council funding the proposed £400 prize fund which will be provided as vouchers to spend in the golf shop.

Councillor Carl Robinson resumed his role as Chairman for the rest of the meeting.

85. 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 December 2021 and January 2022 compared with the same periods in 2021 and 2020.

It was proposed by Councillor Arun M. Chandran, seconded by Councillor Jim Atkinson, and

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

86. OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The Sports Complex Manager submitted a report updating members on new initiatives at the Sports Complex.

It was proposed by Councillor Arun M. Chandran, seconded by Councillor Jim Atkinson, that

- i) The report be received.
- ii) The request from Wellbeing for Life to set up a Community Wellbeing Hub at the Sports Complex be agreed.
- iii) The Sports Complex Manager progress the booking of the sports hall to run a function for Durham Caravan Club on 2nd to 4th June 2022.

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

- i) Details of successful ventures be included on future reports.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report be received.
- ii) The request from Wellbeing for Life to set up a Community Wellbeing Hub at the Sports Complex be agreed.
- iii) The Sports Complex Manager progress the booking of the sports hall to run a function for Durham Caravan Club on 2nd-4th June 2022.
- iv) Details of successful ventures be included on future reports.

87 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.

88. OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX BAR – PERCENTAGE PROFIT MARGINS

The Head of Leisure and Events and Finance Manager submitted a report providing members with information on current profit margins and pricing at the Oakleaf Sports Complex bar, with options for and the impact of increasing the percentage profit margin targets.

After considerable discussion, Councillor Michael Stead wished to have it recorded in the minutes that he felt the Council was potentially anti-competitive in its current pricing and profit margin targets and that there was scope to increase the bar prices.

Councillor Arun M. Chandran wished to have it recorded in the minutes that in fact the Council was competitive in its pricing and that the current prices and profit margins should be retained and reviewed again after the Chancellor's Budget and notification of the annual price increases from the supplier, and again when the new brewery contract has been awarded later in the year.

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.
- ii) A review of the bar pricing and target profit margins be deferred until after the Chancellor's Budget and notification of the annual price increases from the supplier, and again when the new brewery contract has been awarded later in the year.

89. OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX – LET GIRLS PLAY EVENT REQUEST

The Head of Leisure and Events submitted a request from Go Well (formerly Sedgefield School Partnership) for use of the playing fields at the Oakleaf Sports Complex for a Let Girls Play Day football events.

It was proposed by Councillor Jed Hillary, seconded by Councillor John Clark, and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report be received.
- ii) Permission to hold the event be given immediately, to enable planning to proceed, without waiting for full Council approval.

90. EXEMPT BUSINESS

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

91. PARKS EXCLUSION REPORT

The Corporate and Policy Officer submitted a report providing members with information regarding two incidents in the Town Park which warranted action being taken under the Council's Exclusion Policy.

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) The Parks Exclusion notices issued by officers be endorsed.

92. RE-ADMISSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor M. 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.