

RECREATION COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 1ST MARCH 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the **RECREATION COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 1ST MARCH 2023 at 7.15pm**

PRESENT

Councillor Carl Robinson (Chairman) and:
Councillors, Eddy Adam, Tony Armstrong, Lindsey Aston, Jim Atkinson, Peter Bergg, Dorothy Bowman, Arun M Chandran, Neil Collinson, Ian Gray, Phillip Hawkins, Andy Hill, Jed Hillary, Joanne Jones, Sandra Kirby, John Moore, Ken Robson, Michael Stead, Anne Woodward and John Woodward.

OFFICERS

Mr Dan Austin (Town Clerk)
Miss Amanda Donald (Corporate and Policy Officer)
Mr Steve Cooper (Works and Environment Manager)
Mr Lee Williams (Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator)
Mr Andrew Clark (Sports Complex Manager)
Mrs Judith Thexton (Head of Leisure and Events)
Mrs Julie Walton (Corporate Assistant)

IN ATTENDANCE

Ian Templeton (St Oswald's' Allotment Representative and Secretary of the Great Aycliffe Garden Guild).

Members observed a minutes silence in respect of Councillor Beaty Bainbridge, Chairman of Durham County Council.

64. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Martin Ashcroft, Bob Fleming, George Gray, Brian Haigh, Sandra Haigh, Wendy Hillary and Neville Jones.

65. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

No applications for dispensations had been received.

66. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Carl Robinson declared an interest in Agenda Item 7 as a Member of the Oakleaf Golf Club. The meeting agreed that Councillor Robinson could stay in the Chair for this Agenda item in the absence of the Vice Chairman, subject to him not taking part in any debate or voting.

67. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

68. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Ken Robson, seconded by Councillor Andy Hill and:

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 11th January 2023 be confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman, subject to Councillor Lindsey Aston's name being added to the Apologies.

69. EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Tony Armstrong seconded by Councillor Philip Hawkins and:

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Events Sub-Committee, held on the 1st February 2023, be confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman subject to the following resolution being added:-

- vi) Officers approach Beamish Museum to enquire about the loan of artefacts from their 1950's collection for the 75th Celebrations.

70. OAKLEAF GOLF COMPLEX REPORT

The Head of Leisure and Events and Golf Administrator submitted a report and statistical information related to income at the Oakleaf Golf Complex for the seven-week period ended 19th February 2023.

It was proposed by Councillor Philip Hawkins, seconded by Councillor Ken Robson, and:

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

71. OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX USAGE COMPARISONS

The Sports Complex Manager submitted a report updating members on statistical information in relation to the attendance and income at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex for the months of December and January compared with the last five years.

It was proposed by Councillor Jim Atkinson and seconded by Councillor Ken Robson and:

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

72. OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The Sports Complex Manager submitted a report to provide Members with information in relation to current and proposed events at the Sports Complex and requesting consideration of a number of new initiatives.

It was proposed by Councillor Ken Robson, seconded by Councillor Jim Atkinson and:

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) the report be received.
- ii) permission be granted to hold a spring craft market in the Sports Complex on Sunday 12th March.
- iii) the proposal to organise a mini crazy golf day in collaboration with Puttingtons on Saturday 1st April be approved.
- iv) arrangements be made to book a Christmas pantomime.

73. OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX CAPITAL EXPENDITURE – REPLACEMENT BAR FURNITURE

The Sports Complex Manager submitted a report to provide Members with information in relation to the planned 2022/23 asset management works at the sports complex.

Members considered the quotes to replace the tub chairs and wooden chairs in the bar.

Following a debate, it was proposed by Councillor Eddy Adam, seconded by Councillor Jim Atkinson and:

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) the report be received.
- ii) the 8 tub chairs be replaced, and the replacements purchased from Newave Furniture, at a cost of £2,744.
- iii) 18 wooden chairs be purchased in line with the current quote from Newave Furniture of £3,132.
- iv) a rolling programme of replacements be introduced for bar furniture funded from the bar maintenance budget, to replace furniture, which is broken and unrepairable, provided the spend is within the allocated budget amount.
- v) a report is brought forward on the replacement of the bar and function room curtains to a future meeting.

74. PARKS UPDATE REPORT

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report to bring members up to date with items relating to the parks.

Councillor Arun M Chandran asked that appreciation be recorded to the Works and Environment Manager for his handling of an injured Moorhen in West Park.

Councillor Andy Hill asked that appreciation be given to the Works section for their attention in clearing glass from a vandalised bus shelter which did not belong to the Town Council.

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

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

75. AYCLIVE MUSIC FESTIVAL LICENSE

Members considered the report from the Town Clerk and Head of Leisure and Events updating Members on the planning of the inaugural Ayclive Music Festival which is due to take place on Oakleaf playing fields on Saturday 29th July and to set out for approval, the draft licence for the event.

Following a lengthy debate, it was proposed by Councillor Eddy Adam and seconded by Councillor Jim Atkinson that:

- i) the report be received.
- ii) Members approve the draft licence.
- iii) the licence is signed by both parties subject to the various outstanding assurances and paperwork being approved and the parking and traffic management issues being satisfactorily resolved.
- iv) the Council agrees to take up the offer from the organisers of two banners and a message on the LED screen.
- v) the offer from the organisers of free tickets to the event be taken up but that these are not given to Members or staff and instead used for donations and good causes.

A further discussion took place regarding the allocation of the free tickets at which it was suggested that free tickets could be allocated to staff and the Mayor and Mayoress.

Councillor Jed Hillary proposed that the decision regarding the allocation of the tickets would be best deferred and discussed at a future meeting.

Councillor Arun Chandran then put forward an amendment to part v) of the original proposal that the Council take up the offer of free tickets from the organisers and that the allocation of the tickets is discussed and agreed at a future meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Lindsey Aston.

A vote was undertaken on the amendment, and this was agreed by majority vote.

A vote was then undertaken on the substantive motion which was agreed by majority vote.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) the report be received.
- ii) members approve the draft licence.
- iii) the licence is signed by both parties subject to the various outstanding assurances and paperwork being approved and the parking and traffic management issues being satisfactorily resolved.
- iv) the Council agrees to take up the offer from the organisers of two banners and a message on the LED screen.
- v) the offer of 125 free tickets to the event from the organisers be taken up and a decision be made at a future meeting as to how the tickets are allocated.

CHAIRMAN.