

RECREATION COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 12th APRIL 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the **RECREATION COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 12TH APRIL 2023** at 8.55pm

PRESENT

Councillor Carl Robinson (Chairman) and:
Councillors, Eddy Adam, Lindsey Aston, Jim Atkinson, Peter Bergg, Arun M Chandran, John Clark, Neil Collinson, Bob Fleming, George Gray, Ian Gray, Phillip Hawkins, Jed Hillary, Joanne Jones, Neville Jones, Sandra Kirby, John Moore, Ken Robson, Michael Stead, Anne Woodward and John Woodward.

OFFICERS

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

86. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Dorothy Bowman, Andy Hill and Wendy Hillary.

87. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

No applications for dispensations had been received.

88. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Carl Robinson declared an interest in Item 6 on the Agenda as a member of the Oakleaf Golf Club.

89. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

90. MINUTES

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

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 1st March 2023 be confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

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

91. 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 2nd April 2023.

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

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

Councillor Carl Robinson resumed his role as Chairman.

92. 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 February and March 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.

93. OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The Sports Complex Manager submitted a report to provide Members with An update on previous events and staff training held in the period since the last meeting of the Recreation Committee.

Councillor Bob Fleming left the meeting at this point.

Following a number of questions to the Sports Complex Manager, it was proposed by Councillor Eddy Adam, seconded by Councillor Ken Robson and:

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i. the report be received.
- i. permission be granted to hold craft markets throughout the year in partnership with Candy Queen.
- ii. Members agreed to employ a NEET, funded by Durham Works, if a suitable candidate is put forward in the future, subject to appropriate checks being undertaken by sports complex staff and assurances being provided.

94. PARKS UPDATE REPORT

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report providing Members with an update relating to Parks. A verbal update was given in relation to an incident of vandalism at the St Oswald's Park public toilets.

It was proposed by Councillor Arun M Chandran, seconded by Councillor Jed Hillary and:

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i. the report be received.
- ii. the possibility of expanding the CCTV coverage in St Oswald's park be explored by officers.

95. OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX BAR PRICES

The Sports Complex Manager submitted a report to provide Members with information relating to bar prices at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex requesting consideration of changes to the prices and the implementation of a more fluid methodology for setting the prices in the future.

It was proposed by Councillor Arun M Chandran, seconded by Councillor Eddy Adam and:

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i. the report be received.
- ii. Members agree to increase the price of draught products as indicated in the report.
- iii. Members authorise the implementation of the changes to the bar prices on the leisure till system as soon as possible.
- iv. Members authorise officers to react, calculate, update and set new bar prices in line with market trends and supplier price increases.
- v. Members agreed to a more fluid methodology for setting future bar prices with prices and profitability to be reported to each meeting of the Recreation Committee.

96. 2023/24 OAK LEAF SPORTS COMPLEX SERVICE PLAN

The Sports Complex Manager submitted a report presenting the 2023/24 Oak Leaf Sports Complex Service Plan for consideration and approval.

Councillor Lindsey Aston thanked the Sports Complex Manager for his hard work and achievements in increasing usage and income at the facility.

It was proposed by Councillor Lyndsey Aston and seconded by Councillor Jim Atkinson and:

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i. the report be received.
- ii. the 2023/24 Service Plan for the Oak Leaf Sports Complex be approved.

Chairman