

## RECREATION COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022

Minutes of the meeting of the **RECREATION COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 1<sup>st</sup> JUNE 2022 at 8.20pm**

### PRESENT

**Councillor Carl Robinson** (Chairman) and:  
Councillors, Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Jim Atkinson, Dorothy Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, John Clark, Bob Fleming, George Gray, Ian Gray, Mrs Sandra Haigh, Phillip Hawkins, Andy Hill, Joanne Jones, Neville Jones, John Moore, Ken Robson, Michael Stead, Mrs Anne Woodward 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)  
Mr A Clark (Sports Complex Manager)  
Mr C Lawson (Golf Administrator)  
Mrs J Walton (Corporate and Policy Assistant)

### IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Brian Haigh

#### 7. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Eddy Adam, Peter Bergg, Lindsay Aston, Jed Hillary and Wendy Hillary.

#### 8. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

No applications for dispensations had been received.

#### 9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 10. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

#### 11. 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 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022, be confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

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

## **12. GOLF WORKING GROUP NOTES**

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

### **RESOLVED -**

- i) that the notes of the meeting of the Golf Working Group held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
- ii) that it be recorded that access to the golf course should be controlled, and appropriate enforcement action be taken against individuals who enter the course illegally.

## **13. EVENTS SUB COMMITTEE MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft, seconded by Councillor Tony Armstrong and

### **RESOLVED –**

- i) that the minutes of the meeting of the Events Sub-Committee, held on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022, be confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

## **14. 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 eight-week period ended 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022.

Councillor Martin Ashcroft requested that in future reports an additional column is added in to show the income figures for the last full year before the Coronavirus pandemic to aid comparison between years.

### **RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:-**

- i) the report be received.
- ii) an additional column is added to future reports to show the income figures for the last full year before the Coronavirus pandemic to aid comparison between years.
- iii) thanks be given to the members of staff responsible for the substantial increase in golf equipment sales income.

## 15. OAKLEAF GOLF COURSE AND DRIVING RANGE OPENING HOURS

The Golf Administrator and Town Clerk submitted a report requesting Members' consideration for proposed changes to the golf course and driving range hours.

The Golf Administrator was thanked for the clear and comprehensive report.

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

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended that:-

- i) the report be received.
- ii) the recommendations of the report be accepted as follows:-
  - Agree the proposed summer golf course opening hours as referred to in the report, subject to further monitoring and review by the Golf Administrator, Town Clerk and Finance Manager.
  - Agree the proposed winter golf course opening hours as referred to in the report to be implemented in November 2022.
  - Authorise the Golf Administrator to use the staffing hours freed up from closing the golf course one hour earlier on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, in both the summer and winter, for the custom fitting of golf clubs to maintain and hopefully further increase shop sales.
  - Authorise the Golf Administrator, in consultation with the Finance Manager, to use non-budgeted overtime to offer additional custom fitting sessions, if this is deemed necessary in line with customer demand, to be offset by increased golf shop sales income.
  - Authorise the Golf Administrator, in conjunction with the Town Clerk, to monitor future golf course usage and income and customer demand against the opening hours and either increase or decrease the opening hours to meet demand as and when necessary, within the current approved staffing budgets.

*Councillor Carl Robinson resumed his role as Chairman.*

## 16. 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 March 2022 compared with March 2021 and March 2020.

Councillor Martin Ashcroft requested that thanks be recorded to the Sports Complex Manager for the increases in usage and income.

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

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended that

- i) the report be received.
- ii) thanks be recorded to the Sports Complex Manager for the increases in usage and income.

## 17. OAK LEAF SPORTS COMPLEX NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The Sports Complex Manager submitted a report updating members on events and staff training which have taken place since 13<sup>th</sup> April.

Councillor Martin Ashcroft requested that thanks be recorded to the Sports Complex Manager for the various new developments at the sports complex.

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

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended that

- i) the report be received.
- ii) thanks be recorded to the Sports Complex Manager for the various new developments being implemented.
- iii) The K9 Pursuits dog show event be authorised and held between 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> August.
- iv) one of the existing televisions be relocated to the function room.

## 18. PARKS UPDATE

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

Following a discussion around the cleaning of West Park Lakes it was moved by Councillor Arun M Chandran and seconded by Councillor Martin Ashcroft and

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended that

- i) the report be received.
- ii) a meeting be arranged with Northumbrian Water to discuss the cleaning and removal of silt from the lakes and any future drainage and repair works to West Park lakes.
- iii) the meeting be attended by relevant officers and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Recreation Committee and Policy and Resources Committee.

## 19. ADDITIONAL FOOTBALL PITCH ALLOCATION

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report updating members regarding proposed football pitch allocation for the 2022/23 season and requesting consideration of two requests from junior teams for additional football pitch provision..

Following 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.
- ii) AJX Academy are offered the use of a newly created pitch at the Oakleaf Sports complex at an annual fee of £375 per team/pitch.
- iii) Newton Aycliffe Football Club (Juniors) are offered the use of a newly created pitch at Moore Lane at an annual fee of £375 per team/pitch.
- iv) officers investigate the feasibility of creating one further pitch at Horndale.
- v) an additional £2,000 be made available within the Council's Capital Programme Budget to allow the purchase of two extra sets of goals.
- vi) authority be given to the Works and Environment Manager to reallocate any untaken pitches.

**CHAIRMAN.**