

EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2022

Minutes of the meeting of the **EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2022** at **6.00pm**.

PRESENT:

Councillor Martin Ashcroft (Chairman) and Councillors: Tony Armstrong, Phillip Hawkins, Jed Hillary, Joanne Jones, Neville Jones, Ken Robson, Anne Woodward and John Woodward

OFFICERS:

Miss Amanda Donald (Corporate & Policy Officer)
Mrs Judith Thexton (Head of Leisure and Events)
Mrs Rachel Goddard (Clerical Assistant)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor Arun M. Chandran
Councillor Carl Robinson

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bob Fleming and Wendy Hillary.

2. MEMBERS' DISPENSATION

No requests for dispensations had been received.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no questions from members of the public.

5. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Jed Hillary, seconded by Councillor Ken Robson, and

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

6. SENIOR CITIZENS EXCURSIONS

The Head of Leisure and Events submitted a report updating members on the 2022 Senior Citizens' Excursions. Members were asked to decide upon locations for 2023 and consider the format and content of the excursions.

Considerable discussion took place regarding the choice of destinations for 2023 and the provision of lunchtime refreshments.

It was suggested by Councillors Neville Jones and Joanne Jones that all participants could be given £15 each in order to purchase their choice of lunch, which would also assist with Council budget constraints.

It was agreed that a variety of destinations and refreshment options would give participants more choice to suit their individual preferences.

The age threshold for participants was considered, with members feeling that it should remain at 60.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The destinations for the 2023 excursions should be Beamish, Whitby, Lakes, Harrogate and South Shields.
- ii) The age limit should stay at 60 and over.
- iii) Further consideration be given to issuing either cash or a voucher to participants on appropriate excursions in place of a set meal.

7. COUNCIL EVENTS REPORT

The Head of Leisure and Events submitted a report updating members on the Council's community events programme for 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Fun in the Parks

Members received an update on the 2022 Fun in the Parks. The events were very successful and exceptionally well-attended.

The Head of Leisure and Events informed members that officers and staff, had received verbal abuse at the Town Centre Park, due to the popularity of face painting. Despite attempts to manage demand, the provision was heavily over-subscribed and it was necessary to close and monitor the queue for the last hour of the event.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) Face painting should not be offered at future Fun in the Parks events.
- ii) Officers be asked to investigate the costs of animal masks and water tattoos as an alternative.

Skatefest

Members received an update on the planning of the Skatefest event for 2023.

Following a discussion, it was

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) Officers approach the organisers to discuss the possibility of an event for 2023.
- ii) Officers investigate potential sponsorship to offset the cost of this event.

Big Brass Bash

Members received an update on the 2022 Big Brass Bash event, which was very successful and well-attended.

No information for the 2023 event had yet been received from Durham County Council. Officers would inform the Events Sub-Committee when information was forthcoming.

Fireworks Display

Members received an update on the planning of the Fireworks Display for 2022.

The possibility of obtaining sponsorship for the display was discussed.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that officers investigate the possibility of sponsorship for the 2023 Fireworks Display.

Santa Tours

Members received an update on the organisation of the Santa Tours for 2022.

The possibility of sponsorship for individual routes on the Santa Tours was discussed. Councillor Jed Hillary suggested contacting Newton Press regarding the possibility of supplying magnetic sponsorship boards to go on the side of the Santa vehicles.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that Officers should approach local companies to secure sponsorship to offset the cost of this event.

Santa Letters

The planning for Santa Letters was well underway, with a small gift of a magic key purchased to be included with each letter reply.

Following a discussion, it was agreed

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that Officers should approach local companies to secure sponsorship of the letter boxes to offset the cost of this event.

Councillor Jed Hillary left the meeting at this point.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Picnic was very well received by the public.

75th Anniversary of Newton Aycliffe

Members received an update on 75th Anniversary plans.

Following a discussion, it was

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that a mailshot be sent to local businesses requesting assistance with funding or sponsorship for this event.

King Charles III Coronation

Members were asked to consider purchasing non-themed Union flags for the Town Centre Park.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that this request be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

Councillor Tony Armstrong joined the meeting at this point.

8. EXTERNAL EVENTS APPLICATIONS

The Head of Leisure and Events submitted a report requesting members' consideration of four applications from external organisations for the use of Council land for events they were organising.

Cyclocross Event

An application had been received from North East Cyclocross League (NECCL) to hold an event on Saturday 3rd December 2022 on the field at the rear of the Oak Leaf Sports Complex.

As the event is on a Saturday, work section overtime costs would be in the region of £230.

Following a discussion, it was

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) Permission be given to hold the event as described.
- ii) The Works Section overtime costs be recharged to the Events Budget.

Wellbeing Walk

An application had been received from Durham County Council's Wellbeing Development staff, requesting permission to host a weekly 'Gentle Steps' walking session on the running track, which will be free of charge to participants.

Following a discussion, it was

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that permission be granted to DCC to use the running track for these sessions.

Councillors Neville Jones and Joanne Jones declared a non-pecuniary interest in the following item, as they would be attending this event as Mr and Mrs Claus and left the meeting prior to discussion.

Newton Aycliffe Police Christmas Extravaganza

A request had been received from Newton Aycliffe Police for a grant of £1,000 to purchase 800 selection boxes for local children for their Christmas Extravaganza.

After consideration it was

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the request be refused.

Councillors Neville Jones and Joanne Jones re-joined the meeting.

Dogs Trust Fireworks Pop-Up Event

A request had been received from the Dogs Trust to host a pop-up event in the Town Park on either 24th or 31st October to raise awareness of the forthcoming fireworks season for dog owners.

Members were in favour of the initiative but unfortunately there would be insufficient time to obtain Council approval through the committee cycle before the proposed event.

Following a discussion, it was

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The application be refused on this occasion.
- ii) Officers request that the Dogs Trust applies for permission a little earlier in 2023.

9. CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME AT THE OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX

The Chairman requested that this item be deferred to the Recreation Committee for consideration.

Chairman