

RECREATION COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 19th OCTOBER 2022

Minutes of the meeting of the **RECREATION COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 19th OCTOBER 2022 at 7.15pm.**

PRESENT

Councillor Carl Robinson (Chairman) and:
Councillors, Eddy Adam, Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Lindsey Aston, Jim Atkinson, Dorothy Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, John Clark, Bob Fleming, George Gray, Ian Gray, Phillip Hawkins, Andy Hill, Jed Hillary, Joanne Jones, Neville Jones, Ken Robson, Michael Stead, Anne Woodward and John Woodward

OFFICERS

Mr Dan Austin (Town Clerk)
Mrs Tracey Woodhead (Finance Manager)
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

Councillor Sandra Kirby
Mr Ian Templeton, Allotment Tenant, St Oswald's site

40. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Wendy Hillary.

41. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

No applications for dispensations had been received.

42. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

43. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

44. MINUTES

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

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee, held on the 7th September 2022, be confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

45. EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Events Sub-Committee, held on the 5th October 2022, be confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman subject to the following amendment:

That the following resolution be added in respect of Minute 6. Senior Citizens' Excursions

- iv) that officers explore the possibility, for future years, of spreading the excursions across the year to encompass Christmas Markets and Events.

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

46. 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 six-week period ended 9th October 2022.

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

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) that the report be received.

Councillor Carl Robinson resumed his role as Chairman.

47. 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 August compared with the last five years.

It was clarified by Councillor Lindsey Aston that Section 2.3 of the report refers to income in the months of August and September.

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

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) that the report be received.

48. OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The Sports Complex Manager submitted a report updating members on events held in the period since the last Recreation Committee Meeting, events planned over the coming months, an update on the new bar contract, the launch of a public survey, and the replacement of the televisions in the bar.

There was a lengthy debate regarding the replacement of the televisions in the bar area and the options of installing a television in the function room or installing a drop-down screen in the bar.

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

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) that the report be received.
- ii) that a further report be brought to the Council Meeting scheduled to take place on 2nd November 2022, in respect of the options for the televisions.

49. OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX WARM SPACE

The Sports Complex Manager submitted a report for Members consideration on the feasibility of creating a warm space in the Sports Complex for members of the community.

There was a lengthy debate regarding the feasibility of purchasing equipment, applying for external funding and whether the initiative should be undertaken at any cost to the Council.

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

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) that the report be received.
- ii) that Members agree to providing a warm space at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex subject to this being undertaken at no cost to the Council and the Sports Complex Manager seeking funding from the Durham Community Foundation Warm Spaces Fund.

50. CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME AT THE OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX

The Head of Leisure and Events and the Sports Complex Manager submitted a report for Members to formally agree to a Christmas family pantomime taking place at the Sports Complex

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft and seconded by Councillor Eddy Adam and:

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) permission be granted to hold the Pantomime at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex on Monday 19th December.

51. PARKS UPDATE

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report updating members on issues relating the Council's parks, requesting consideration of a proposal to replace an item of play equipment at the Oak Leaf play area and to consider options for restricting unauthorised vehicular access to the sports complex playing field.

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

RESOLVED –that it be recommended that:

- i) the report be received.
- ii) that the defective play equipment in the Oak Leaf play area be removed and replaced with the spare roundabout
- iii) that the Council does not proceed with creating ditches around the playing field to restrict unauthorised vehicular access;
- iv) that an external company be approached and a donation of a further supply of boulders be requested to help address the problems.

52. 2023/24 DRAFT RECREATION REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS

The Finance Manager submitted a report for Members' consideration, comments and approval of the draft 2023/24 Revenue and Capital Budgets for the Recreation Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Arun Chandan and seconded by Councillor Eddy Adam and:

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- a) the report be received.
- b) That the draft 2023/24 Recreation Revenue Budget be agreed
- c) That the savings proposals set out in Appendix 2 are agreed as set out in the table on the following page:-

Activity	Amount	Savings Proposal	Outcome
Large Community Events	£5,000	Reduce Large Community Events Budget by £5,000 per year. Consideration could also be given to reducing this budget further.	Agreed to reduce budget by £15,000
Fireworks Display	£180	Removal of prizes for fireworks poster competition.	Not Agreed
Fireworks Display	£120	No Newton News Advert, only advertise on social media.	Not Agreed
Fireworks Display	£1,000	Seek sponsorship for the Fireworks Display.	Agreed
Fireworks Display	£250	Increase fees for catering units and rides.	Agreed
Christmas Lighting Display	£500	Consider smaller Christmas Trees.	Not Agreed
Community Enhancement Awards	£1,300	Consider removing prizes and issuing certificates and trophies only.	Agreed
Santa Tours	£1,200	Consider seeking a sponsor for each Santa Tour route (12 routes).	Agreed
Santa Letters	£175	Consider seeking a sponsor for each Santa Letter box (7 boxes).	Agreed
Water Coolers	£300	Consider removing the water coolers in the Sports Complex.	Not Agreed
Fees and Charges	£36,650	If fees and charges proposals are agreed this would increase income across Recreation Committee services.	Further increases to be investigated
Other Savings Options			
All	-	Consider reducing the number of staff first aiders to save on allowances and training costs.	Not Agreed
Fireworks Display	-	Consider introducing a small charge for wristbands.	Not Agreed
Senior Citizens' Trips	-	Various options including increasing the eligibility age, provide a packed lunch or voucher instead of a meal and considering closer venues.	Agreed to give further consideration to issuing cash instead of a meal.
Fun in the Parks	-	Reduce the number of events from 7 to 5.	Not Agreed
Christmas Display	-	Consider planting trees at St Clare's Church and Aycliffe Village.	Agreed to investigate further.

- d) That Members advise officers of any further savings proposals to be investigated ahead of the final setting of the 2023/24 Recreation Budget in January.
- e) That the draft 2023/24 Recreation Capital Programme Budget set out in Appendix 3 be agreed.
- f) That no Capital Budget is set aside for the provision of a permanent commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of Newton Aycliffe.

CHAIRMAN.