

SPECIAL POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MONDAY 31ST OCTOBER 2022

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe on Monday 31st October 2022 at 7.15pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Arun M. Chandran (Chairman)

Councillors Eddy Adam, Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Lindsey Aston, Jim Atkinson, Bob Fleming, George Gray, Brian Haigh, Mrs. Sandra Haigh, Joanne Jones, Neville Jones, Carl Robinson, Ken Robson, Michael Stead, Anne Woodward, and John Woodward.

OFFICIALS

Mr. Dan Austin (Town Clerk)
Mrs. Tracey Woodhead (Finance Manager)
Mrs. Judith Thexton (Head of Leisure and Events)
Mr. Lee Williams (Grounds Maintenance and Services Coordinator)
Mr. Andy Clark (Sports Complex Manager)
Mr. Chris Lawson (Golf Administrator)
Mrs. Sharna Stretch (Senior Administrative Officer)

The Chair wished to record his thanks to the Labour and Liberal Democrats Groups for their co-ordinated response to the fees and charges proposals and the advance notice of their group decisions.

68. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ian Gray, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary and John Moore.

69. MEMBERS DISPENSATIONS

No dispensation requests had been received.

70. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Carl Robinson declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 5 as he is a member of the Oakleaf Golf Club.

71. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

72. COUNCIL FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2023/24

The Finance Manager provided a report of information to support the annual review of the fees and charges levied for services provided by the Council.

Members discussed the proposals and officer recommendations for the fees and charges for the 2023/24 financial year and the following was agreed by all:

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that

CEMETERIES

- a) Cemetery fees are increased by 15% for 2023/24;

FOOTBALL PITCHES

- b) Football pitches fees are increased by 15% for 2023/24;

PRE-SCHOOL

- c) Pre-school charges are increased by 15p for 2023/24;

ALLOTMENTS

- d) Allotment rent charging bands are increased by 15% for 2024;
e) Pigeon site rents are increased by 15% for 2023/24;
f) Poultry site rents are increased by 15% for 2024;
g) Bee keeping plot rents are increased in line with allotment rents for 2024;
h) Raised bed plot rents are increased in line with allotments rents for 2024;
i) The rent band for a large allotment is implemented for use of the land at Clarence Chare Allotments for use as a Gardener's Guild after the first full year of operation.

SPORTS COMPLEX

- j) The Sports Complex annual membership is increased from £22.00 to £25.00 for adults and increased from £15.50 to £17.50 for Senior Citizens and juniors for 2023/24;
- k) The Sport Complex Indoor Bowls is increased for:
- **Members** – Junior from £1.85 to £2.00 and Adult and Senior Citizens from £3.00 to £3.20 for 2023/24;
 - **Non-members** - Junior from £2.60 to £3.00 and Adult and Senior Citizens from £3.75 to £4.20 for 2023/24;
- l) The Sports Complex Sporting Activities for members and non-members be increased for 2023/24 as in the tables below:

Members:

Activity	Category	Member 2023/24 Rate
Badminton	Adult /Senior	£6.20
	Junior	£3.60
Squash	Adult /Senior	£6.20
	Junior	£3.60
Table Tennis	Adult /Senior	£6.20
	Junior	£3.60
Five a Side Football	Adult /Senior	£37.00
	Junior	£22.00

Non-Members:

Activity	Category	Non-Member 2023/24 Rate
Badminton	Adult /Senior	£7.80
	Junior	£5.20
Squash	Adult /Senior	£7.80
	Junior	£5.20
Table Tennis	Adult /Senior	£7.80
	Junior	£5.20
Five a Side Football	Adult /Senior	£45.00
	Junior	£28.00

- m) Weekday and special offers for Sports Complex five a side fees be removed;
- n) The Sports Complex deposit for hire of equipment and facilities be increased from £1.00 to £5.00 and the hire charge be increased from £1.00 to £1.20 per hour;
- o) The Sports Complex bowls locker hire be increased from £6.50 to £7.00 per annum.
- p) The Sports Complex shower fee be increased from £1.00 to £1.20 per use;
- q) The function room hire be frozen with the hourly charge for function room being implemented per hour when a buffet forms part of the hire;
- r) The Sports Complex fitness class fees be removed;

GOLF COURSE AND DRIVING RANGE

- s) The golf membership prices for adults, over 60s and 19 to 25's be increased with the introduction for different rates for parish residents and non-residents for a full year membership, as follows,
 - £39 increase for non-residents
 - £20 increase for residents when taking out a full 12-month membership;
- t) The golf membership prices for the Junior 15 to 18 category be frozen;
- u) The membership fee for the Junior 14's and under category is increased by £5.
- v) The replacement membership card charge be frozen;
- w) A £2 increase in green fees;
- x) A £4 increase in the County Card rate;
- y) A £2 increase per round for visiting party green fees;
- z) 14 months for the price of 12 months membership from 1st February 2023 for new members.
- aa) The off-peak and concessionary green fees be removed;
- ab) The non-member deposit for golf buggy hire be removed
- ac) Golf buggy hire be increased by £2 members and £3.00 non-member;
- ad) Golf trolley hire be increased by £1;
- ae) The driving range small and large basket of balls be increased by 50p;
- af) The driving range card be increased from £40 to £44;
- ag) The Oak Leaf Golf Shop introduce a charge of £20 for custom fitting (to be refunded if a club is subsequently purchased);

CARAVAN SITE

- ah) For use of the caravan site:
 - £1.50 increase for casual use per night
 - £1.75 increase for rallies per night (up to 10 vans)

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- ai) The Council should seek to review charges for catering vans and fairgrounds and seek sponsorship opportunities in respect of its programme of community events and instruct officers to bring forward a report to a future meeting in respect of this issue.

The Finance Manager advised that all increases will be brought into the 2023/24 Revenue Budget for next year in a deviation from usual Council policy in light of the challenging budget situation.

The Chairman closed the meeting by reiterating his thanks to Councillors' Lindsey Aston, Eddy Adam and all other members for their co-operation and to officers for their work preparing a clear and understandable report which had helped enable an efficient and productive meeting with clear decisions on all of the fees and charges proposals.

CHAIRMAN.