

## RECREATION COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the **RECREATION COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 6<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023 at 7:00pm**

### PRESENT

**Councillor Jed Hillary** (Chairman) and:  
Councillors: Eddy Adam, Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Lindsey Aston, Jim Atkinson, Peter Bergg, Arun M Chandran, John Clark, George Gray, Ian Gray, Brian Haigh, Andy Hill, Sandra Kirby, Joanne Jones, Neville Jones, John Moore, Carl Robinson, Ken Robson, Anita Sparrow, Michael Stead, Anne Woodward and John Woodward.

### OFFICERS

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

### IN ATTENDANCE

One member of the public.

### 35. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Dorothy Bowman, Neil Collinson, Phillip Hawkins, Sandra Haigh, Simon Hocking

### 36. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

No applications for dispensations had been received.

### 37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Carl Robinson declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda Item Numbers 6 and 11 as a committee member of the Oakleaf Golf Club.

### 38. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

### 39. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Andy Hill, seconded by Councillor George Gray and:

**RESOLVED** - that the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 40. 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 27<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

Councillor Martin Ashcroft asked a number of questions about the income losses and golf course closures and the Head of Leisure and Events advised that a written response would be provided after the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Jim Atkinson seconded by Councillor Eddy Adam and:

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

### 41. 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 month of July compared with the last five years.

Councillor Martin Ashcroft commended the Sports Complex Manager and staff at the Oakleaf Sports Complex for the ongoing improvements.

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

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended that the report be received.

*Councillor Sandra Kirby entered the meeting.*

## **42. 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 and details of proposed new developments.

It was proposed by Councillor Arun Chandran, seconded by Councillor Peter Bergg and:

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

- i) the report be received.
- ii) that the Sports Complex Manager be delegated with the authority to make decisions regarding Sports Complex bookings so that they are not waiting for approval first, with the condition that any booking which may be contentious, or cause controversy be brought to the attention the Town Clerk and the Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Recreation Committee and if deemed appropriate.

## **43. PARKS UPDATE**

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report providing Members with an update on issues relating to parks.

Following a lengthy discussion focussing on the options for the Town Park flower beds including annuals, perennials, hedging and trees, it was proposed by Councillor Eddy Adam, seconded by Councillor Marin Ashcroft and:

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

- i) the report be received.
- ii) the planting of annual plants in the six main flower beds is continued.
- iii) the lavender beds be re-laid with standard trees and hedging with fencing for protection subject to a further report being brought to the Committee detailing costs.
- iv) That the sustainable planting of Council flower beds and the use of perennials be further considered by officers as part of the Medium-Term Financial Plan and reported to Council as appropriate.

#### **44. PARKS EXCLUSION REPORT**

The Corporate Management Team submitted a report providing Members with information regarding the exclusion of a young person who has been the subject of several complaints relating to numerous incidents which took place in the Town Park and warranted action being taken under the Council's Exclusion Policy.

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

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

- i) the report be received.
- ii) that Members endorse the Parks Exclusion Notice of 18 months, with a review after 12 months.

#### **45. GOLF COURSE TREE PLANTING PROJECT**

The Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator submitted a report to update members on a proposed tree planting project on the Oakleaf Golf Course to help improve drainage, alleviate flooding, increase the biodiversity in the area, and improve the aesthetics of the course.

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

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended that the report be received.

#### **46. GOLF WORKING GROUP VACANCY**

Members considered a proposal from Councillor Arun Chandran, seconded by Councillor Lindsey Aston, that Councillor Michael Stead replace the late Councillor Bob Fleming on the Golf Working Group.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended that Councillor Michael Stead be appointed to the vacancy on the Golf Working Group.

**Chairman**