

## **RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY 31<sup>st</sup> MAY 2023**

Minutes of the meeting of the **RECREATION COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 31<sup>st</sup> MAY 2023 at 7:55pm**

### **PRESENT**

**Councillor Jed Hillary (Chairman)** and:

Councillors: Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Jim Atkinson, Peter Bergg, Dorothy Bowman, Arun M Chandran, John Clark, Neil Collinson, Bob Fleming, George Gray, Ian Gray, Brian Haigh, Sandra Haigh, Phillip Hawkins, Andy Hill, Simon Hocking, Joanne 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 Lee Williams (Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator)  
Mrs Julie Walton (Corporate Assistant)

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor Wendy Hillary

One Member of the Public

### **7. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Eddy Adam, Lindsey Aston, Sandra Kirby and Neville Jones.

### **8. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

### **9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Carl Robinson declared an interest in Item 6 as a member of the Oakleaf Golf Club.

### **10. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

## 11. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor George Gray, seconded by Councillor Ken Robson and:

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

## 12. 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 seven-week period ended 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023.

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

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

## 13. 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 months of February and March compared with the last five years.

It was proposed by Councillor Ken Robson and seconded by Councillor George Gray and:

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

## 14. 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 M Chandran, seconded by Councillor Ken Robson and:

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

- i) the report be received.
- ii) The Council agrees to formally allow the CiffeCon event in April 2024.
- iii) The Council agrees to allow use of the function room to hold an evening with a Clairvoyant in the Autumn (date to be confirmed).
- iv) The Council agrees to allow the sports complex to deploy staff to attend the Newton Aycliffe Sports Day event in the town centre on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

## 15. PARKS UPDATE

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

Councillor Arun M Chandran raised some concerns around the clearing of leaves from West Park Lakes and the lake cleaning schedule and requested that a standing item be added to future Parks Update Reports giving details of the West Park lakes cleaning schedule, that the schedule is publicised to allow volunteers to take part, and that officers contact Northumbrian Water in respect of their pledge to assist with the task of cleaning the lakes.

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) A standing item be added to future Parks Update Reports giving details of the West Park lakes cleaning schedule.
- iii) The cleaning schedule is publicised to allow volunteers to take part.
- iv) Officers contact Northumbrian Water in respect of their pledge to assist with the task of cleaning the lakes.

## 16. DURHAM GALA THEATRE – PERMISSION TO USE THE TOWN PARK

The Head of Leisure and Events submitted a report asking that Members consider an application from Durham Gala Theatre to hold a family show in the Town Park in August.

Members considered the details in the report and it was proposed by Councillor Arun M Chandran, seconded by Councillor Peter Bergg and:

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

- i) The report be received.
- ii) The Council agrees to granting the use of the Town Park on 20<sup>th</sup> August to allow Durham County Council (Gala Theatre) to hold an outdoor theatre production, subject to the relevant risk assessments and other documentation being received, reviewed and agreed by officers.
- iii) Standing Orders be waived to allow the arrangements for the event to be finalised immediately.

## 17. AYCLIVE MUSIC FESTIVAL FREE TICKETS

The Town Clerk and Head of Leisure and Events submitted a report providing members with an update in relation to the Ayclive Music Festival and requesting consideration of the offer of free tickets to the event and how these should be allocated.

It was proposed by Councillor Joanne Jones and seconded by Councillor Arun M Chandran and:

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

- i. The report be received.
- ii. Members agree to give out the free tickets as follows:
  - a) Two of the VIP tickets to be offered to the Mayor and Mayoress of the Council.
  - b) The remaining 23 VIP tickets be offered firstly to recipients of the Council's Community Recognition Scheme awards, with any remaining tickets offered to users of the 'All-Disabilities Matter' Group.
  - c) 100 general admission tickets be offered to Junction 7, Lifeline Community Action and the Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group.
  - d) The Council does not have a trade stand at the event.

## 18. AYCLIFFE 75 UPDATE

The Town Clerk, Corporate and Policy Officer and Head of Leisure and Events submitted a report providing Members with an update on the planning of the celebratory and commemorative events and initiatives in relation to the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Newton Aycliffe.

It was proposed by Councillor Arun M Chandran and seconded by Councillor Jim Atkinson and:

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

## 19. FOOTBALL PITCH ALLOCATION FOR 2023/24 SEASON

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report presenting the proposed allocation of football pitches for the 2023/24 season and related matters, as well as details of an initial enquiry from Newton Aycliffe Sports Club (NASC) to investigate the possibility of working in partnership with the Council to create a focal point for youth football and additional pitches in the Moore Lane area.

It was proposed by Councillor Arun M Chandran and seconded by Councillor Michael Stead and:

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

- i. The report be received.
- ii. The Council agrees to allocate football pitches to all returning teams, including those at Moore Lane as set out in the report.
- iii. The Council rejects the proposal to develop a partnership with NASC to provide a football hub at Moore Lane.
- iv. The Council rejects the NASC request to use existing football pitch at Moore Lane for junior football next season.
- v. The Council rejects the proposal that officers further explore the feasibility of offering further additional junior pitches to Newton Aycliffe Sports Club at Moore Lane next season.

## 20. FOOTBALL CHARITY TOURNAMENT

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report requesting Members consideration of an application to hold a football tournament at Simpasture Park on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July.

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft and seconded by Councillor Peter Bergg and:

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

- i. The report be received.
- ii. The Council agrees to allow the event to take place subject to suitable risk assessments, insurance cover and health and safety requirements being in place.
- iii. The Council agrees that should a catering unit be in attendance at the event, no charge should be levied.

**Chairman**