

RECREATION COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 29th NOVEMBER 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the **RECREATION COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 29th NOVEMBER 2023** at 7:00pm

PRESENT

Councillor Jed Hillary (Chairman) and:
Councillors: Tony Armstrong, Lindsey Aston, Jim Atkinson, Dorothy Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, John Clark, Neil Collinson, George Gray, Ian Gray, Brian Haigh, Andy Hill, Wendy Hillary, Joanne Jones, Neville Jones, Sandra Kirby, Brian McAnaney, John Moore, Carl Robinson, Ken Robson, Michael Stead, Anne Woodward and John Woodward.

OFFICERS

Mr Dan Austin (Town Clerk)
Mr Steve Cooper (Works and Environment Manager)
Mrs Judith Thexton (Head of Leisure and Events)
Mr Andy Clark (Sports Complex Manager)
Mr Lee Williams (Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator)
Mrs Sharna Stretch (Senior Admin. Officer)

IN ATTENDANCE

Three members of the public.

60. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Eddy Adam, Peter Bergg, Sandra Haigh and Simon Hocking.

61. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

No applications for dispensations had been received.

62. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Carl Robinson declared an interest in Agenda Item 6 relating to the Oak Leaf Golf Complex as a committee member of the Oakleaf Golf Club.

63. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

64. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Andy Hill, and seconded by Councillor Neil Collinson and:

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 18th October 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

65. 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 19th November 2023.

The Town Clerk provided a further update in relation to progress in actioning the recommendations agreed at the Golf Working Group Meeting, including the development of a long-term improvement and investment plan for the golf complex.

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

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

66. 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 October compared with the last five years.

Councillor Carl Robinson wished to record his thanks to the Sports Complex Manager and his staff for the increases in income at the facility.

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

67. OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

The Sports Complex Manager submitted a report to provide an update on the planned 2023/24 asset management works at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex.

The report focussed on the previously agreed use of the VAT windfall monies to undertake the re-covering of the alcove seating in the bar area.

Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Andy Hill, and seconded by Councillor Carl Robinson and:

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report be received;
- ii) Option 3 be agreed to engage Meridian Upholstery to undertake the works at a cost of £13,234.00 (+VAT);
- iii) An additional Capital Budget approval request be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee of £2,119.

68. PARKS UPDATE

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

Councillor Andy Hill wished to record his thanks to the works section for their work on the Fireworks Display and the Remembrance Day event.

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

69. EVENTS SUB COMMITTEE VACANCY

Members were asked to consider nominating a replacement to the vacancy on the Events Sub Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Lindsay Aston, and seconded by Councillor Michael Stead, and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) Councillor Joanne Jones be appointed to the Events Sub Committee.

70. EXEMPT BUSINESS

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

RESOLVED – that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it was, in the opinion of the Council, advisable that the public and press be excluded from the meeting.

71. OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The Sports Complex Manager submitted a report to provide Members with an update on previous events and any staff training held in the period since the last meeting of the Recreation Committee and details of proposed new developments.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the forthcoming pantomime and all councillors were requested to help promote the event.

The Sports Complex Manager also updated members regarding a recent break-in at the Oakleaf Sports Complex and made recommendations for additional control measures.

Councillor Carl Robinson wished to record his thanks to the Sports Complex Manager and staff for the actions taken to keep the catering service open and in achieving a retrospective discount on the bar supplies contract.

The Chairman also wished to commend the bar and catering staff for their hard work to achieve the 5-star food hygiene rating from Durham County Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Carl Robinson and seconded by Councillor Andy Hill that an additional alarm sensor be installed in the bar area and that the budget to upgrade the internal CCTV system be brought forward from 2024/25 to this year.

A further discussion was held regarding the purchase and installation of handrails to the bowl hall as requested by Oak Leaf Bowls Club.

Councillor Michael Stead suggested that option 2 in the report be agreed, for four handrails and offered to use funds from his Neighbourhood Budget from Durham County Council towards the purchase and installation. Councillor Stead asked if other County Councillors on the Town Council could do the same.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) the report be received; and
- ii) an additional alarm sensor be installed at a cost of £395.02 to be funded from the Sports Complex Building Maintenance Budget;
- iii) the provision of the internal CCTV system in the Sports Complex be brought forward from the 2024/25 Capital Programme Budget to this financial year and the request be referred to the next Policy and Resources Committee on 6th December 2023 for approval.
- iv) Four handrails be purchased and installed by Auckland Sheet Metal at a cost of £670, subject to funding being secured from County Councillor Neighbourhood Budget via the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP).

72. RE-ADMISSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Arun M. Chandran, and seconded by Councillor Lindsey Aston, and agreed that the public and press be re-admitted to the meeting.

Chairman