

RECREATION COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 12th JULY 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the **RECREATION COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 12TH JULY 2023** at 7:00pm

PRESENT

Councillor Jed Hillary (Chairman) and:
Councillors: Eddy Adam, Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Jim Atkinson, Peter Bergg, Arun M Chandran, John Clark, George Gray, Ian Gray, Brian Haigh, Phillip Hawkins, Andy Hill, Simon Hocking, 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)
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
A representative from Newton Aycliffe Sports Club
One member of the public

The Chairman, Councillor Jed Hillary made a short speech in recognition of the late Councillor Bob Fleming and a minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect.

The Chairman also requested a message of condolence be sent to retired officer Mrs Christine Ryder in respect of her recent bereavement.

21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Lindsey Aston, Dorothy Bowman, Neil Collinson, and Sandra Haigh.

22. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

No applications for dispensations had been received.

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Carl Robinson declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 8 as a committee member of the Oakleaf Golf Club.

Councillor Jim Atkinson declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 7 as a member of the Newton Aycliffe Sports Club.

24. GUEST SPEAKER

A representative from Newton Aycliffe Sports Club gave a short presentation on the history of the Sports Club, the success of the Junior Football Section and the need for additional junior football pitches.

Members thanked the representative for the information.

25. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

26. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Ken Robson, seconded by Councillor Andy Hill and:

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 31st May 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

27. NEWTON AYCLIFFE SPORTS CLUB JUNIOR FOOTBALL SECTION – REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FOOTBALL PITCHES.

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report setting out details of a request from Newton Aycliffe Sports Club, Junior Football Section to investigate the possibility of additional junior football pitches at Moore Lane.

A short discussion was held around parking issues around Moore Lane.

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

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) the report be received.
- ii) NASC juniors are offered the recently vacated 11 a-side pitch on alternate weekends.
- iii) two additional football pitches are created at Moore Lane Park. and allocated to NASC Junior Football Club.
- iv) the three pitches be charged at the current junior team hire rate of £430 per team per year as per the Council's agreed fees and charges.

28. 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 2nd July 2023.

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

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that:

- i) the report be received.

- ii) members agree to hold the Mayor's Charity Golf Competition on Saturday 23rd September 2023 and offer course courtesy on the day.
- iii) consent be given for the Mayors Charity Golf Competition to be held year on year with no further approval needed from the Council unless Officers have any issues or concerns to bring before the Recreation Committee.

29. 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 May and June compared with the last five years.

It was proposed by Councillor Eddy Adam and seconded by Councillor Carl Robinson and:

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) the report be received.

30. 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 Martin Ashcroft, seconded by Councillor Carl Robinson and:

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) the report be received.
- ii) Members give formal authority for the Shildon Model Railway Club to return to the Sports Complex in 2024.

31. EXTERNAL EVENTS APPLICATION

The Head of Leisure and Events submitted a report requesting that Members consider an application from an outside organisation; OASES to hold a series of nature events at West Park.

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) Members agree to granting the use of the West Park for six dates throughout the summer school break to host outdoor nature events.
- iii) Standing orders be waived to allow officers to immediately advise OASES of the Recreation Committee's decision ahead of ratification by Full Council, so they can finalise the arrangements for the event to take place.

32. PARKS UPDATE

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

The Works and Environment Manager gave a verbal update to Members on the cleaning of West Park Lakes advising that Northumbrian Water have offered a provisional date of Friday 21st July for use of the mini vac for cleaning out the lakes, on the understanding that if a priority situation occurs elsewhere the vac will not be available. The Works and Environment Manager further advised that this date be publicised as a public event.

It was proposed by Councillor Arun M Chandran, seconded by Councillor Jed Hillary and:

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) the report be received.
- ii) the police are notified of each incident of anti-social behaviour which takes place in and around Moore Lane Park.

33. UPDATE OF BYERLEY PARK PLAY AREA USING SECTION 106 AGREEMENT FUNDING.

The Town Clerk and Works and Environment Manager submitted a report informing members of a successful bid for Section 106 Agreement monies to fund the upgrade of the play area at Byerley Park and to request Members' consideration of the quotes and designs, taking into account the views of local children following a consultation process.

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

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) the report be received.
- ii) the principle of the Byerley Park play area upgrade taking place using the approved Section 106 Agreement monies be agreed.
- iii) the Kompan design be agreed.
- iv) a funding bid be submitted to the GAMP Neighbourhood Budget to fund the budget shortfall.
- v) an additional capital programme budget approval of £5,400 be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval to allow the project to be progressed whatever the outcome of the GAMP funding bid.
- vi) the Standing Order exemption be approved.

34. PARKS EXCLUSION REPORT

The Corporate Management Team submitted a report providing Members with information regarding two incidents which took place in the Town Park which warranted action being taken under the Council's Exclusion Policy.

A ban of 12 months had been recommended for Youth 1, and a ban of three months for Youth 2.

It was proposed by Councillor Arun M Chandran and seconded by Councillor Martin Ashcroft that the recommendations of the report be accepted.

Councillor Joanne Jones put forward an amendment that both youths be excluded for a period of 12 months. This was seconded by Councillor Ken Robson.

A vote was taken on the amendment and the results were as follows:

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| In Favour | 11 |
| Against | 9 |

The amendment was carried.

A vote took place on the substantive motion and the results were as follows:

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| In Favour | 11 |
| Against | 5 |
| Abstentions | 1 |

The Motion was carried.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) the report be received.
- ii) both youths be excluded for a period of 12 months

CHAIRMAN