

## RECREATION COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the **RECREATION COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023** at 7:00pm

### PRESENT

**Councillor Jed Hillary** (Chairman) and:  
Councillors: Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Lindsey Aston, Jim Atkinson, Peter Bergg, Arun M Chandran, John Clark, Neil Collinson, George Gray, Ian Gray, Brian Haigh, Andy Hill, Wendy Hillary, Simon Hocking, Neville Jones, John Moore, Carl Robinson, Ken Robson, Michael Stead, Anne Woodward and John Woodward.

### OFFICERS

Mr Dan Austin (Town Clerk)  
Mrs Tracey Woodhead (Finance Manager)  
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 Julie Walton (Corporate Assistant)

### IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Brian McAnaney  
Two Members of the Public

#### 47. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Eddy Adam, Dorothy Bowman, Sandra Haigh, Joanne Jones and Sandra Kirby.

#### 48. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

No applications for dispensations had been received.

#### 49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Carl Robinson declared an interest in Agenda Items 7 and 8 on the agenda relating to the Oak Leaf Golf Complex as a committee member of the Oakleaf Golf Club.

#### 50. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

## 51. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Andy Hill, seconded by Councillor Martin Ashcroft and:

**RESOLVED** - that the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## 52. EVENTS SUB COMMITTEE MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Arun M Chandran, and seconded by Councillor Peter Bergg that the minutes be accepted, subject to the following amendment:

*That recommendation 9f) as detailed below be removed due to this being an unnecessary waste of money.:*

### ***50<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Great Aycliffe Town Council***

- i) *A banner be created by officers for letters, emails and promotional materials to mark the occasion, with the theme of 'Great Aycliffe Town Council, serving the local community for 50 years'.*
- ii) *Commemorative ties, scarfs and pens are purchased at the time of the next order of these items.*

It was proposed by Councillor Carl Robinson and seconded by Councillor Martin Ashcroft that the recommendation be retained as there were no additional financial implications to the proposed actions.

A vote was held on the proposed amendment to the draft minutes and the results were as follows:

In favour: 5  
Against: 14

The proposed amendment to the draft minutes therefore failed.

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft, seconded by Councillor Ken Robson and:

**RESOLVED** - that the minutes of the meeting of the Events Sub Committee held on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman and the recommendations of the meeting be agreed.

## 53. GOLF WORKING GROUP NOTES

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

**RESOLVED** - that the notes of the meeting of the Golf Working Group held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman and the recommendations of the meeting be agreed.

#### **54. 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 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft, seconded by Councillor Ken Robson and:

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

#### **55. 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 August and September compared with the last five years.

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft and seconded by Councillor Lynsey Aston and:

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

#### **56. 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.

Councillor Tony Armstrong wished to have thanks recorded in the minutes to the Sports Complex Manager and Head of Leisure and Events for the various improvements in usage and income.

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft, seconded by Councillor Lynsey Aston and:

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

- i) the report be received.
- ii) Members agree to like and share social media posts to help advertise the Sports Complex to the local community.

#### **57. PARKS UPDATE**

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

It was proposed by Councillor Carl Robinson, seconded by Councillor Andy Hill and:

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

- i) the report be received.
- ii) the pitch at Moore Lane be allocated to Newton Aycliffe Sports Club for a new over 40's league over the summer period, at a hire rate of £45 per game, and that replacement goal sockets be purchased at a cost of £100.

## 58. SERVICE REVIEW WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

Members considered the recommendations from the Service Review Working group relating to the Sports Complex Review and specifically to the catering operation, as follows:-

1. *No changes are made to the catering service operation or kitchen layout at the current time and that the Sports Complex Manager is instructed to bring any new ideas, improvements or proposals forward at the appropriate time to the Recreation Committee.*
2. *Any proposals relating to the catering staffing are included in the sports complex staffing review meeting Service Review Working Group meeting in March next year.*
3. *Delegated authority is given to officers to address the current catering staffing shortages within the budget available e.g. to bring in agency staff.*
4. *Prior to the next Service Review Working Group Meeting, scheduled for December 2023, the Town Clerk sends a memo to all members asking them to put forward any suggestions they may have in relation to sports complex activities and usage.*

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

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

- i) the recommendations be agreed.

## 59. 2024/25 DRAFT RECREATION REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS

Members considered the report from the Finance Manager setting out for consideration and approval the draft 2024/25 Revenue and Capital Budgets for the Recreation Committee.

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

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

- i) the report be received.
- ii) the draft 2024/25 Recreation Revenue Budget be agreed
- iii) the draft 2024/25 Recreation Capital Budget be agreed.

**Chairman**