

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2023 AT 7pm

Minutes of the meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe on Wednesday 6th December 2023 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Arun M. Chandran (Chairman)

Eddy Adam, Martin Ashcroft, Lindsey Aston, John Clark, George Gray, Ian Gray, Brian Haigh, Phillip Hawkins, Jed Hillary, Sandra Kirby, Brian McAnaney, John Moore, Carl Robinson, Ken Robson, Michael Stead.

OFFICERS

Mr. Dan Austin (Town Clerk)

Mrs. Sharna Stretch (Senior Administration Officer)

IN ATTENDANCE

One member of the public.

76. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors: Tony Armstrong, Jim Atkinson Peter Bergg, Dorothy Bowman, Sandra Haigh, Andy Hill, Wendy Hillary, Simon Hocking, Joanne Jones, Neville Jones, Anne Woodward and John Woodward.

77. MEMBERS DISPENSATIONS

No dispensation requests had been received.

78. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Eddy Adam declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 8 as a member of Newton Aycliffe Rotary and Councillor Carl Robinson declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 9 relating to the Oak Leaf Golf Complex as a committee member of the Oakleaf Golf Club and member of Oakleaf Golf Complex.

79. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

80. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Eddy Adam, seconded by Councillor Ian Gray and;

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee, held on the 25th October 2023, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

81. PERSONNEL SUB COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft and seconded by Councillor Ken Robson and;

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Sub Committee, held on the 8th November 2023, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, and the recommendations of the meeting be agreed.

82. ACCOUNTS CONTROL SHEETS

Accounts Control Sheets for the period 19th October to 16th November 2023 and the General Bank Account for October 2023 were submitted for approval.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the Account Control Sheets for the 19th October to 16th November 2023 and the General Bank Account for October 2023 be received.

83. GRANTS AND DONATIONS

The Town Clerk submitted a report setting out the donation requests which had been received since the last meeting.

It was reported that a total of £2,259 is currently available in the Donations Budget and £7,156 in the Community Benefit Fund.

The following donations requests were considered:

a) Rotary Newton Aycliffe

A request was received from Rotary Newton Aycliffe for funding to support the cost of their annual Christmas Hamper Project.

It was proposed by Councillor Ian Gray and seconded by Councillor John Clark that a grant of £1,000 be given.

It was further proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft and seconded by Councillor Carl Robinson that a grant of £500 be given.

Councillor Michael Stead proposed that no grant be given as it was not the right use for the money and a project that the Council could organise and fund itself.

There then followed a short debate regarding the donation amount and the need to ensure sufficient balances were retained in the donations budget, after which Councillor Ian Gray agreed to withdraw his proposal.

A vote then took place on the proposal for a donation of £500 with the following results:

For: 10 Against: 3 Abstention: 1

Councillor Michael Stead wished to have it recorded in the minutes that he was opposed to a donation being made for the reasons previously outlined.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that;

- i) a grant of £500 be given to Rotary Newton Aycliffe for funding to support the cost of their annual Christmas Hamper Project.

b) Open Spaces Society

A request was received from the Open Spaces Society for a donation towards their legal action appeal.

It was proposed by Councillor Jed Hillary, and seconded by Councillor Eddy Adam, and;

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that;

- i) no donation be made to the Open Spaces Society.

84. GOLF 5 DAY MEMBERSHIP RULES

A request was received from a member of the Oak Leaf Golf Complex, via the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, for the Council to consider removing the restriction on 5 Day Golf Memberships, which prevents those members from playing before 12pm on a bank holiday.

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft, and seconded by Councillor John Clark, that no change is made to the policy.

Councillor Eddy Adam further proposed that the matter be referred to the next Golf Course Working Group to gauge their opinion on the issue.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) the briefing note be received.
- ii) the Council policy remains unchanged.
- iii) the matter be discussed at the next meeting of the Golf Course Working Group

85. SERVICE REVIEW WORKING GROUP VACANCIES

Members were asked to consider nominating replacements to the two vacancies on the Service Review Working Group.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) Councillors Phillip Hawkins and Brian McAnaney be appointed to the Service Review Working Group.

86. PERSONNEL SUB COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Members were asked to consider nominating replacements to the two vacancies on the Personnel Sub Committee.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) Councillors Phillip Hawkins and Brian McAnaney be appointed to the Personnel Sub Committee.

87. AUDIT, RISK AND GDPR SUB COMMITTEE VACANCY

Members considered nominating a replacement to the vacancy on the Audit, Risk and GDPR Sub Committee.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) Councillor Brian McAnaney be appointed to the Audit, Risk and GDPR Sub Committee.

88. PRE-SCHOOL SUB COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Members considered nominating replacements to the two vacancies on the Pre-School Sub Committee.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) Councillors Phillip Hawkins and Brian McAnaney be appointed to the Pre School-Sub Committee.

89. ASSET MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP VACANCIES

Members considered nominating replacements to the two vacancies on the Asset Management Working Group.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) Councillors Phillip Hawkins and Brian McAnaney be appointed to the Asset Management Member Working Group.

90. REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Members were requested to approve the following revenue and capital budget amendments, as agreed at the Recreation Committee on 29th November 2023:-

1. *That an additional £2,119 is approved from the VAT windfall monies towards the alcove seating in the Oak Leaf Sports Complex bar.*
2. *That the £5,500 capital budget for an updated internal CCTV system for the Oak Leaf Sports Complex is brought forward from the 2024/25 financial year to the 2023/24 financial year.*
3. *That approval is given to meet the £395 cost of an additional alarm sensor from the Sports Complex building maintenance budget, which may result in a small overspend on the budget in this financial year.*

Councillor Jed Hillary queried if items 1 and 3 could be amalgamated and both be met using the VAT windfall monies.

The Town Clerk clarified that he had spoken to the Finance Manager on this subject who recommended that as the cost of additional alarm sensor was a revenue budget item, it was best funded from the building maintenance budget.

Councillor Carl Robinson questioned the original placing of the alarm sensors at the sports complex and requested that further thought is given to the placing of sensors on future upgrades of alarm systems.

Councillor Martin Ashcroft questioned the bringing forward of the monies for the internal CCTV system at the sports complex.

The Town Clerk addressed both questions, explaining that officers would follow the expert advice of the alarm company and police and also constantly review the placement of alarm sensors in relation to alarm calls and incidents, and that the need for the bringing forward of the CCTV system budget had been fully explained in the Sports Complex Manager's Report to the Recreation Committee.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) an additional £2,119 is approved from the VAT windfall monies towards the alcove seating in the Oak Leaf Sports Complex bar;
- ii) the £5,500 capital budget for an updated internal CCTV system for the Oak Leaf Sports Complex is brought forward from the 2024/25 financial year to the 2023/24 financial year;
- iii) the £395 cost of an additional alarm sensor from the Sports Complex building maintenance budget, be approved, noting it may result in a small overspend on the budget in this financial year;

CHAIRMAN.