

RECREATION COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 13TH MAY 2026

(as part of the Annual General Meeting)

Minutes of the meeting of the **RECREATION COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe on Wednesday 13th May 2026.

PRESENT Councillors Tunde Akinsanya, Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Lindsey Aston, Jaci Beddard, Tony Beddard, Dorothy Bowman, Richard Burchell, Arun M. Chandran, Chris Clement, Neil Collinson, Luke Ellis, George Gray, Brian Haigh, Andy Hill, Sharon Hutchinson, Sandra Kirby, John Moore, Carl Robinson, Kyle Robinson, Ken Robson, Brian Sowerby, Michael Stead, Tracey Williams, Anne Woodward and John Woodward.

OFFICIALS Mr. Dan Austin (Town Clerk)
Mrs. Tracey Woodhead (Finance Manager)
Miss. Amanda Donald (Corporate and Policy Officer)
Mrs. Sharna Stretch (Senior Administrative Officer)

IN ATTENDANCE Three members of the public.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Councillor Arun Chandran and seconded by Councillor Tracey Williams, that Councillor Luke Ellis be nominated as Chairman of the Recreation Committee for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

It was further proposed by Councillor Carl Robinson and seconded by Councillor Ken Robson, that Councillor Martin Ashcroft be appointed Chairman of the Recreation Committee for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

A vote took place with the following results:

Councillor Luke Ellis	15 votes
Councillor Martin Ashcroft	9 votes

RESOLVED – that Councillor Luke Ellis be appointed Chairman of the Recreation Committee for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

Councillor Luke Ellis took the Chair for the meeting.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Councillor Lindsey Aston, and seconded by Councillor John Woodward, that Councillor Kyle Robinson be nominated as Vice-Chairman of the Recreation Committee for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

It was further proposed by Councillor Carl Robinson and seconded by Councillor Martin Ashcroft, that Councillor Tony Armstrong be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Recreation Committee for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

A vote took place with the following results:

Councillor Kyle Robinson	14 votes
Councillor Tony Armstrong	11 votes

RESOLVED – that Councillor Kyle Robinson be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Recreation Committee for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jackie McFadden Lewis and Phill Hawkins.

4. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

There had been no applications for dispensations.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

6. APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

The Recreation Committee considered the appointment of members to the following Sub Committees and Working Group:

- (a) Golf Working Group
- (b) Santa Tours Sub Committee
- (c) Events Sub-Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Arun Chandran and seconded by Councillor Martin Ashcroft and

RESOLVED – as follows:

(a) Golf Working Group

- (i) That a Golf Working Group be appointed for the Municipal Year 2026/27.
- (ii) That the Golf Working Group comprise of 11 members plus the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Recreation Committee.
- (iii) That the membership be:

Councillors: Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Richard Burchell, Arun M. Chandran, Chris Clement, Neil Collinson, Luke Ellis, George Gray, John Moore, Carl Robinson, Kyle Robinson, Michael Stead and Tracey Williams.

- (iv) That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Golf Working Group for the Municipal Year 2026/27 be appointed at its first meeting.

(b) Santa Tours Sub Committee

- (i) That a Santa Tours Sub-Committee be appointed for the Municipal Year 2026/27.
- (ii) That the Santa Tours Sub-Committee comprise 24 members, plus the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio, plus the volunteer and public members previously appointed.
- (iii) That the membership be:

Councillors: Tunde Akinsanya, Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Jaci Beddard, Tony Beddard, Dorothy Bowman, Richard Burchell, Arun M. Chandran, Chris Clement, Neil Collinson, Luke Ellis, George Gray, Brian Haigh, Phil Hawkins, Andy Hill, Richard Hutchinson, Sandra Kirby, Jackie McFadden Lewis, John Moore, Carl Robinson, Kyle Robinson, Ken Robson, Brian Sowerby, Michael Stead, Anne Woodward and John Woodward.
- (v) That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Santa Tours Sub Committee for the Municipal Year 2026/27 be appointed at its first meeting.

(c) Events Sub Committee

- (i) That an Events Sub-Committee be appointed for the Municipal Year 2026/27.
- (ii) That the Events Sub-Committee comprise of 18 members plus the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio members.
- (iii) That the membership be:

Councillors: Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Jaci Beddard, Tony Beddard, Richard Burchell, Arun M. Chandran, Neil Collinson, Luke Ellis, George Gray, Phill Hawkins, Andy Hill, Richard Hutchinson, Sandra Kirby, Jackie McFadden Lewis, Carl Robinson, Kyle Robinson, Brian Sowerby, Michael Stead, Anne Woodward and John Woodward.
- (iv) That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Events Sub-Committee for the Municipal Year 2026/27 be appointed at its first meeting.

CHAIRMAN