

SPECIAL POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 8th DECEMBER 2021

Minutes of the meeting of the **SPECIAL POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe on Wednesday 8th December 2021 at 7.15pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Arun M. Chandran (Chairman)

Councillors Eddy Adam, Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Jim Atkinson, Peter Bergg, Dorothy Bowman, Barbara Clare, John Clark, Neil Collinson, George Gray, Ian Gray, Brian Haigh, Mrs. Sandra Haigh, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, Kate Hopper, John Moore, Carl Robinson, Ken Robson, and Michael Stead.

OFFICERS

Mr. D. Austin (Town Clerk)
Mrs. S. Stretch (Senior Administrative Officer)
Miss A. Donald (PA to the Town Clerk)
Mrs T. Woodhead (Finance Manager)
Mr C. Lawson (Golf Administrator)

IN ATTENDANCE Councillors Joanne Jones, Neville Jones, and Maureen Shelton.

The Chairman made an opening statement regarding Agenda Item 6 - Charges Working Group Notes, with reference to recommendation xii. He advised members that it was his intention as Chairman to propose the deletion of this recommendation when agreeing these Notes.

89. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Bob Fleming, Phil Hawkins, and Andrea Miller.

90. MEMBERS DISPENSATIONS

The Town Clerk had received a dispensation request from Councillor Carl Robinson in relation to Agenda Item 6 – Charges Working Group Notes.

The requested dispensation would allow Councillor Robinson to speak, but not vote, on the golf fees and charges recommendations, despite his personal interest as a member of Oak Leaf Golf Club and the Oak Leaf Golf Complex.

It was proposed by Councillor Eddy Adam and seconded by Councillor Jim Atkinson that the dispensation request be refused.

RESOLVED- that:

- i) the dispensation request be refused.

91. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There was a non-pecuniary declaration of interest from Councillor Carl Robinson on Agenda Item 6 – Charges Working Group Notes, as he is a member of Oak Leaf Golf Club and the Oak Leaf Golf Complex.

There was also a non-pecuniary declaration of interest from Councillor Jed Hillary on Agenda Item 6 – Charges Working Group Notes, as he is an allotment holder at St Oswald's allotments.

92. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

93. PERSONNEL SUB COMMITTEE MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Eddy Adam, seconded by Councillor Ken Robson, and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Sub Committee held on the 1st December 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

94. CHARGES WORKING GROUP NOTES

The notes and following recommendations from the meeting of the Charges Working Group held on the 30th November 2021 were submitted for consideration:-

- i) That the proposed 5% increase in cemeteries fees for 2022/23, be agreed;
- ii) That football pitches fees be increased by 2% for 2022/23;
- iii) That a full report on the proposed introduction of a charge for formal use of the running track at the sports complex playing fields be referred to the Recreation Committee for consideration;
- iv) That the proposed 10p increase in pre-school charges for 2022/23 be agreed;
- v) That a 2.5% increase in allotments rent charging bands for 2023 be agreed and notified to tenants;
- vi) That a 2.5% increase in pigeon site rents for 2022/23 be agreed;
- vii) That a 2.5% increase in poultry site rents for 2023 be agreed;
- viii) That the rent for the use of land at Clarence Chare Allotments by the newly formed Gardener's Guild be waived for the first year of operation and then set for future years in line with the appropriate allotments rent band;
- ix) That the proposed freeze in sports complex fees for 2022/23 be agreed;
- x) That the proposed increase in sports complex membership fees be agreed, and that bowls locker hire fees be frozen;
- xi) That the proposed freeze in golf membership prices be agreed;
- xii) That the proposed removal of the Over 60 Golf Memberships category be agreed, alongside the reduction of the 5 Day Adult Membership fee to £320, the transfer of all current 5 Day Over 60 Members onto to the Adult 5 Day Membership and offering all 7 Day Over 60 Members the choice of transferring onto either the Adult 7 Day Membership or the 5 Day Adult Membership.
- xiii) That the proposal that 5 Day Memberships are amended to exclude rounds on bank holidays from 2022/23 be agreed;

- xiv) That the proposed introduction of a pro rata golf membership for all adult members from April 2022 be agreed;
- xv) That the proposal that the Council offer a 15 month for the price of 12 months membership from 1st January 2022 for new golf members be agreed.
- xvi) That the proposed removal of off-peak and concessionary green fees be agreed;
- xvii) That the proposed £2 increase in green fees be agreed;
- xviii) That the proposed £2 increase in the County Card fee be agreed;
- xix) That the proposed reduction to £12 per round for visiting party green fees be agreed;
- xx) That the proposed freeze in golf buggy hire charges and club hire fees be agreed;
- xxi) That the proposed £2 increase in golf trolley hire be agreed;
- xxii) That the proposed freeze in driving range fees for 2022/23 be agreed;
- xxiii) That the proposed freeze in charges for the caravan site for 2022/23 be agreed;
- xxiv) That consideration of whether, in principle, the Council should seek to implement charges and seek sponsorship opportunities in respect of its programme of community events be referred to the Events Sub Committee for consideration.

It was proposed by Councillor Eddy Adam and seconded by Councillor Jim Atkinson that the notes and recommendations of the Charges Working Group meeting be agreed, subject to all recommendations relating to the Golf Complex fees being referred to a Special Policy and Resources Committee meeting.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor Jed Hillary and seconded by Councillor John Clark that the recommendation relating the football pitches fees also be referred to a Special Policy and Resources Committee meeting.

A vote was taken on the amendment and was passed by a majority vote.

A vote was then taken on the substantive motion and was passed by a majority vote.

RESOLVED – that the notes and recommendations from the Charges Working Group held on the 30th November 2021 be agreed and confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendments:-

- i) all recommendations relating to the Golf Complex fees being referred to a Special Policy and Resources Committee meeting.
- ii) the recommendation relating the football pitches fees also be referred to a Special Policy and Resources Committee meeting.

CHAIRMAN.