

EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 27th MARCH 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the **EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY 27TH MARCH 2024** at 7.00pm.

PRESENT:

Councillor Carl Robinson (Chairman) and:
Councillors Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, John Clark, Neil Collinson, Andy Hill, Ken Robson, Anne Woodward and John Woodward

OFFICERS:

Mr Dan Austin (Town Clerk)
Mrs Rachel Goddard (Events Clerical Assistant)
Mrs Judith Thexton (Head of Leisure and Events)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors Arun M. Chandran
One member of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sandra Haigh, Jed Hillary and Sandra Kirby.

2. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

No requests for dispensations had been received.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no questions from members of the public.

5. MINUTES

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

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Events Sub-Committee, held on the 27th September 2023, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Tony Armstrong joined the meeting at 7.05pm.

6. COUNCIL EVENTS UPDATE

The Head of Leisure and Events submitted a report updating members on the planning of the Council's annual programme of events for 2024, which include Fun in the Parks, Santa Tours, Fireworks Display and Senior Citizens' Trips.

The Head of Leisure and Events gave a verbal update on the purchase of an additional safe for the cash required for the Senior Citizens' Trips. The safe will now cost an additional £150 and £175 for fitting and delivery, however the purchasing of the safe is still within budget.

With regard to the Skate Fest event, it was advised that the officer had contacted Four Motion, and a meeting had taken place, however no further contact has been received since, and they are not replying to emails or phone calls.

Councillor Martin Ashcroft requested that officers continue to pursue the company with a view to holding this event.

It was advised that Durham County Council had offered a date of Thursday 11th July 2024 for the Big Brass Bash.

With regard to the Fireworks Display, it was advised that after receiving a couple of comments on social media regarding a reduced noise fireworks display, officers had approached the fireworks company for advice. The advice received was that whilst there would be no cost implications, moving completely to low noise fireworks would compromise the visibility and impact of the display. However it may be possible to integrate up to 20% low noise fireworks without significantly diminishing the overall experience.

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft and seconded by Councillor Andy Hill that the Council does not give further consideration to a silent or reduced noise display.

Councillor Tony Armstrong and Councillor Ken Robson spoke in support of incorporating 20% lower-noise fireworks.

A vote took place with the following results:

For	6
Against	2
Abstention	1

In relation to the D-Day event which will take place on Thursday 6th June 2024, it was advised that the event had been planned in line with the Pageant Master's guidance, and would be a commemorative event, with the beacon will be lit at sunset, accompanied by a piper from the Newton Aycliffe Pipe Band. The event will be live streamed on social media.

With regard to the proposed 1km Family Colour Run event, Councillors were enthusiastic regarding this event.

It was proposed by Councillor Andy Hill that sponsorship should be sourced for this event.

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

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report be received.
- ii) Skate Fest – Officers continue to pursue Four Motion and other companies in the local area to hold an event this year.
- iii) Big Brass Bash – The Council purchases a Big Brass Bash event for Thursday 11th July 2024 at a cost of £6,500.
- iv) Fireworks Display – No further consideration should be given to a silent/reduced noise event for 2024.
- v) D-Day – The plans for the commemoration event as set out in the report be agreed.
- vi) 1km Family Colour Run – Officers should proceed with the organisation of the event, as set out in the report, at an estimated cost of around £1,500 to be funded from the Large Community Events Budget.
- vii) Bacchanalia – Officers should remain in contact with Bacchanalia with a view to bringing further events to Great Aycliffe in the coming years.
- viii) Standing Orders are waived to allow officers to progress with the organisation of the events and booking of services without the need to wait for the Events Sub Committee minutes to be ratified by Recreation Committee and Full Council (Skate Fest, Big Brass Bash and Colour Run).

7. EXTERNAL EVENTS FUNDING APPLICATIONS

The Head of Leisure and Events submitted a report for members consideration setting out an external event grant request from Community Spirit, to fund a petting zoo at their 2024 Christmas Extravaganza event, and an application from Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society requesting use of Council land for a vintage bus rally.

A discussion took place regarding the Community Sprit Christmas Extravaganza grant request, during which concerns were raised regarding the inclement weather which can be expected in December and the housing of the animals in such circumstances.

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft and seconded by Councillor Andy Hill that no grant be given.

A vote took place with the following results:

For (no funding to be granted)	4
Against (funding to be granted)	3
Abstentions	2

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft and seconded by Councillor Andy Hill that the application from Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society requesting use of the Council Offices visitors car park for a vintage bus rally be agreed, and that the Council Offices be open for the duration of the event with officers in attendance to undertake community engagement.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report be received.
- ii) No grant be awarded to Community Spirit for a petting zoo at their 2024 Christmas Extravaganza event.
- iii) Permission be granted to Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society (ADBPS) to use the former lorry park for their vintage bus event on 17th August 2024, subject to officers receiving all the relevant paperwork.
- iv) The Council Offices be open for the duration of the vintage bus event, with officers in attendance to undertake community engagement.
- v) Standing Orders be waived to allow officers to immediately advise ADBPS of the Events Sub Committee's decision so that they can finalise the arrangements for the event to take place and promote the event, without the need to wait for the Events Sub Committee minutes to be ratified by Recreation Committee and Full Council.

Chairman