

## EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the **EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023** at 7.00pm.

### PRESENT:

**Councillor Carl Robinson (Chairman)** and Councillors: Martin Ashcroft, Neil Collinson, Mrs Sandra Haigh, Andy Hill, Jed Hillary, Sandra Kirby, Ken Robson, Anne Woodward and John Woodward

### OFFICERS:

Mr D. Austin (Town Clerk)  
Mrs R. Goddard (Events Clerical Assistant)  
Mrs J. Thexton (Head of Leisure and Events)

### IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors Arun M. Chandran and Brian Haigh

### 1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft, seconded by Councillor Andy Hill, that Councillor Carl Robinson be appointed as Chairman of the Events Sub-Committee for the Municipal Year 2023/24.

**RESOLVED** – That Councillor Carl Robinson be appointed as Chairman of the Events Sub-Committee for the Municipal Year 2023/24.

*Councillor Carl Robinson took the Chair for the Meeting*

### 2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Councillor Andy Hill and seconded by Councillor Kenneth Robson that Councillor Martin Ashcroft be appointed as Vice Chairman of the Events Sub Committee for the Municipal Year 2023/24.

It was further proposed by Councillor Jed Hillary and seconded by Councillor Sandra Kirby that Councillor Tony Armstrong be appointed to the position of Vice Chairman.

A vote took place with the following results:

Councillor Tony Armstrong	2 votes
Councillor Martin Ashcroft	8 votes

**RESOLVED** – that Councillor Martin Ashcroft be appointed Vice Chairman of the Events Sub-Committee for the Municipal Year 2023/24.

### 3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tony Armstrong and Simon Hocking.

#### 4. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

No requests for dispensations had been received.

#### 5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no questions from members of the public.

#### 7. MINUTES

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 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### 8. SENIOR CITIZENS' EXCURSIONS

The Head of Leisure and Events submitted a report updating members on the 2023 Senior Citizens Excursions and requested members' consideration of the proposed locations, itinerary and timeframe for the 2024 Senior Citizens Excursions. It was also requested that Members consider the introduction of a small refundable deposit for the trips, the feasibility of undertaking trips at other times of the year and alternative events for those senior citizens who do not feel they can travel on coaches.

A lengthy discussion took place.

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft and seconded by Councillor Ken Robson to agree the most popular destinations from the 2023 customer survey forms which were York, Whitby, the Lake District and Skipton, with a shorter half day excursion be offered as the final location, and that the Head of Leisure and Events initially investigate venues at Whitley Bay, and, if there are no suitable venues there, that Seaham and Tynemouth would then be investigated.

This was agreed by majority vote.

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft and seconded by Councillor Andy Hill that the excursions take place over a four-week period, that the York and Whitley Bay excursions have a meal in a suitable hotel or restaurant, and that the Whitby, Skipton and Lakes excursions are provided with £15 cash.

This was agreed by majority vote.

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft and seconded by Councillor Ken Robson that the proposal to introduce a small refundable deposit of £5 per applicant be agreed.

A vote took place with the following results:

For (Deposit)	5 Votes
Against (No Deposit)	5 Votes

The Chairman used his casting vote to vote in favour of no deposit.

It was proposed by Councillor Jed Hillary and seconded by Councillor Martin Ashcroft that the purchase of an additional safe to hold the cash floats for the trips be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

This was agreed by majority vote.

It was proposed by Councillor Andy Hill and seconded by Councillor Martin Ashcroft that no further trips take place at other times of the year.

This was agreed by majority vote.

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft and seconded by Councillor Andy Hill that the feasibility of holding an event at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex for those senior citizens who feel they cannot travel on coaches is investigated for future years and reported back to a future meeting of the sub-committee.

This was agreed by majority vote.

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

- i) The report be received.
- ii) Excursions in 2024 will take place in York, Whitby, Skipton and the Lakes with a shorter trip to Whitley Bay, if a suitable venue can be found, with Seaham and Tynemouth identified as back up options.
- iii) Whitby, Skipton and the Lakes will be full day trips with each attendee given £15 in cash, York be a full day trip with a 2-course meal and Whitley Bay will be a shorter day with a 2-course meal.
- iv) A £5 refundable deposit per applicant is not implemented.
- v) The excursions will take place over a four-week timeframe.
- vi) Themed or Christmas Market excursions will not be added to the schedule.
- vii) Officers to investigate the feasibility of holding an event at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex next year, for users who do not wish to travel on coaches, to be funded from the Large Community Events budget.
- viii) the purchase of an additional safe to store the additional cash required for the Senior Citizens' Excursions be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

## **9. COUNCIL EVENTS UPDATE**

The Head of Leisure and Events submitted a report for members to update Members on the Council's 2023/24 community events programme.

Each individual event was covered in turn.

### **Fun in the Parks**

The event was held during the school summer holidays and was very well received by the public.

For 2024 it was requested that Members consider the re-establishment of face painting on a chargeable basis, and to hold two 'adventure park' events with the second adventure park replacing one of the more traditional events.

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft and seconded by Councillor Andy Hill that a face painter be reintroduced with a charge for their services next year and that a second Adventure Park be incorporated into the programme to replace one of the traditional events and officers investigate the feasibility of Simpasture Park hosting the second adventure park.

### **Ayclive Music Festival**

The Ayclive Music Festival was held on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July on the Oak Leaf playing fields, organised by Ayclive Events and Northern Productions.

The event had been very successful with no incidents.

It was reported that a member of the Council's Work Section had dedicated 36 hours to assisting with the event and that Ayclive Events had agreed to pay for this overtime. However this did have an impact on the operative's other duties.

Councillor Jed Hillary questioned whether there would be any refund due on the Council's grant towards the cost of running the event.

The Town Clerk stated that a debrief meeting is to take place with the organisers on 28<sup>th</sup> September to discuss the event including the issue of whether there would be any reimbursement of the £10,000 grant.

It was proposed by Councillor Jed Hillary and seconded by Councillor Ken Robson that officers make it clear to the organisers that no assistance will be available from Council works staff if there is to be an event next year.

### **Skatefest**

Officers have not had a response from the company used in previous years.

Councillor Martin Ashcroft suggested that officers contact local company 'Four Motion' who are based in Darlington regarding hiring professional BMX or skateboard performers.

## **Fireworks Display**

Planning for this year's event is well underway. It was reported that officers have been approached by Durham Police Cadets, regarding volunteering at the event. The cadets would be 14 to 18yrs and would be supervised by leaders for the whole event.

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft and seconded by Councillor Jed Hillary that the Police Cadets be allowed to volunteer at the event and set up an information stand.

It was suggested that other cadets and scouts groups could be approached for future year's events.

## **80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D Day – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

It was reported that officers had received correspondence from the Pageant Master regarding a national initiative to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the D-Day landings.

It has been recommended that where possible, towns light beacons at 21:45 on the 6<sup>th</sup> June.

It was proposed by Councillor Jed Hillary and seconded by Councillor Martin Ashcroft that the Council agrees to light a beacon on 6<sup>th</sup> June and that officers contact the local REME regarding bring military vehicles to the Sports Complex so they can be viewed on the evening, and that a pipe band be invited to play while the beacon is being lit.

It was further reported that the second initiative for the commemorations would be food outlets selling fish and chips and making a donation of £1 per portion to four military charities.

It was proposed by Councillor Ken Robson and seconded by Councillor Jed Hillary that the Oak Leaf Sports Complex could take part in this initiative, that fish and chip shops within the parish are contacted to make them aware of the initiative.

It was further proposed by Councillor Ken Robson and seconded by Councillor Martin Ashcroft that local churches are contacted to establish interest in holding a civic service to commemorate the anniversary.

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

Great Aycliffe Town Council will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year, and it was proposed that 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*'.

It was proposed by Councillor Jed Hillary and seconded by Councillor Martin Ashcroft that commemorative ties, scarfs and pens are purchased at the time of the next order of these items.

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

- i) The information provided in the report be received.
- ii) The following specific actions are agreed for each event:-

**a) Fun in the Parks**

- i) A face painter be reintroduced next year with a charge for their services.
- ii) A second Adventure Park event be incorporated into the programme next year to replace one of the traditional events and officers investigate the feasibility of Simpasture Park hosting the second adventure park.

**b) Ayclife Music Festival**

- i) officers make it clear to the organisers that no assistance will be available from Council works staff if there is to be an event next year.

**c) Skatefest**

- i) Officers contact Four Motion in Darlington regarding hiring professional BMX or skateboard performers for an event next year.

**d) Fireworks Display**

- i) The Police Cadets be allowed to volunteer at the event and set up an information stand.

**e) 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D Day**

- i) A beacon be lit to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the D Day landings on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 21:45.
- ii) Officers contact the local REME to discuss the possibility of bringing military vehicles to the event.
- iii) Officers to investigate the cost of a pipe band accompanying the lighting of the beacon.
- iv) The Oak Leaf Sports Complex participate in the fish and chips charity initiative.
- v) Officers inform the local fish and chip shops of the initiative.
- vi) Local churches are contacted to establish interest in holding a civic service to commemorate the anniversary.

**f) 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.

**10. EXTERNAL EVENT APPLICATION – GO WELL GIRLS FOOTBALL FESTIVAL**

The Head of Leisure and Events submitted a report requesting members' consideration of an application from Go Well Community CIC for the use of Council land for an event they are organising.

Members felt that this event will encourage girls to play football and join a club.

Following a discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Jed Hillary and seconded by Councillor Martin Ashcroft and

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

- i) The report be received.
- ii) Permission be granted for the Go Well Community CIC to hold their Girls Football Festival on the playing fields at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024, subject to all the relevant paperwork being received and checked by officers.

**Chairman**