

RECREATION COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 29TH MAY 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the **RECREATION COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 29TH MAY 2024** at **7:00pm**

PRESENT

Councillor Michael Stead (Chairman) and:

Councillors: Eddy Adam, Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Lindsey Aston, Arun M Chandran, Neil Collinson, George Gray, Ian Gray, Phillip Hawkins, Andy Hill, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, Joanne Jones, Neville Jones, Brian McAnaney, John Moore, Carl Robinson, Ken Robson, Anne Woodward and John Woodward.

OFFICERS

Mr. D. Austin (Town Clerk)
Mrs. J. Thexton (Head of Leisure and Events)
Mr. S. Cooper (Works and Environment Manager)
Mr. L. Williams (Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator)
Mrs. S. Stretch (Senior Administration Officer)

IN ATTENDANCE

Inspector Sarah Honeyman (Newton Aycliffe Police)
PC Michael Welch (Newton Aycliffe Police)
Four members of the public.

7. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Peter Bergg, John Clark, Sandra Haigh and Sandra Kirby.

8. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

No applications for dispensations had been received.

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Carl Robinson declared an interest in Agenda Item 7 relating to the Oak Leaf Golf Complex as a committee member of the Oakleaf Golf Club.

10. GUEST SPEAKERS

Inspector Sarah Honeyman and PC Mike Welch from Newton Aycliffe Police attended the meeting to update members on matters relating to policing in Newton Aycliffe including staffing, police station, anti-social behaviour and off-road bikes, and to answer questions from Members.

It was advised that the move to the new temporary premises at the Glow Church has been successful, and that a pro-active search for a permanent home is ongoing, following the commitment from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Neighbourhood Policing Team is now close to full capacity with four PC's, three PCSO's and two further PCSO'S due to commence work later in the year.

There are also a total of 25 response officers working out of Newton Aycliffe, 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

Inspector Honeyman further updated members on recent offences that have been reported including shed burglaries, shoplifting and anti-social behaviour.

An appeal was made to report off road bikes causing a nuisance via the 101 phone number as areas are targeted based on where the demand is and incidents will only be recorded this way.

Inspector Honeyman stated that if officers know about an issue, then they can do something about it and encouraged councillors to report issues.

It was further reported that the Rapid Deployment CCTV cameras are working well and that funding has been applied for through GAMP for drones to assist in dealing with off-road bikes and securing seizure notices and arrests.

PC Welch highlighted that a lot of work is taking place in local schools talking to children about bullying, cyber-crime, knife crime, consequences of crime etc.

An update on the status on 'The Hub' was given (a community access area for police, drugs/alcohol support, citizens advice). They are now looking at the old Woolworths store in the town centre and sourcing funding.

Members thanked the officers for attending and then asked various questions including regarding the 101 telephone system and response times, Trailblazer funding, PACT meetings, off-road bikes and the possible redeployment of CCTV cameras in the Moore Lane area.

Councillor John Moore wished to record his thanks for the work of the police in successfully limiting the number of off-road bikes on the old equestrian centre land.

It was suggested by Councillor Joanne Jones that councillors could assist the police in keeping up to date with policing issues and raising concerns by attending PACT Meetings.

It was suggested by Councillor Carl Robinson that the PACT meeting day be altered from a Wednesday to avoid a clash with Council Meetings and improve councillor attendance which Inspector Honeyman agreed could be looked into.

Councillor Eddy Adam identified special thanks to PC Mike Welch in recognition for his excellent work with partners in acquiring demountable CCTV cameras.

Inspector Honeyman added that contact information for the Neighbourhood Polce Team can be found on the Durham Force website.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk would circulate this information.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Sarah Honeyman and PC Mike Welch for taking their time out to attend the meeting.

A brief adjournment then followed.

11. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A member of the public wished to highlight that the food and service at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex is very good.

12. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Jed Hillary, seconded by Councillor Ken Robson and:

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 10th April 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

13. OAKLEAF GOLF COMPLEX REPORT

The Head of Leisure and Events presented a report setting out statistical information related to usage, income and improvements at the Oakleaf Golf Complex.

Information was also included in the report relating to the request that officers investigate banning the use of golf bags on the driving range.

Members confirmed the officer's recommendation that a ban on golf bags at the driving range is not implemented.

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft, seconded by Councillor Lindsey Aston, and:

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that:-

- i) The report be received.
- ii) A ban on the use of golf bags on the driving range is not implemented.

14. OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX USAGE COMPARISONS

The Head of Leisure and Events presented a report updating members on statistical information in relation to the attendance and income at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex for the month of April, compared with the last five years.

It was proposed by Councillor Jed Hillary, seconded by Councillor Martin Ashcroft, and:

RESOLVED - that it be recommended that the report be received.

15. OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The Head of Leisure and Events submitted a report to provide Members with an update on previous events and staff training held in the period since the last meeting of the Recreation Committee and details of proposed new developments.

A verbal update regarding the catering staffing situation was given.

Councillor Eddy Adam asked about the uptake of darts since the installation of the dart board and suggested that the new advertising banners be repositioned elsewhere to promote the facility and that further marketing and promotion could be undertaken.

Councillor Andy Hill wished to record his thanks for the successful CliffeCon event.

Councillor Jed Hillary queried the budget regarding the bar tables refurbishment.

The Town Clerk advised that it is normal practice for Revenue Budget savings to be moved for one year to the next, subject to approval by the Council and that the request for monies to fund the bar-table refurbishment would be included in the 2024/25 Revenue and Capital Budget Outturn Report to be presented to the next Policy and Resources Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Eddy Adam, seconded by Councillor Martin Ashcroft and:

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report be received.
- ii) The request for Fox Events to run another CliffeCon event on Saturday 10th May 2025 be agreed.
- iii) The bar tables be refurbished, utilising savings from the 2023/24 Revenue Budget.
- iv) The request for Darlington Model Railway Club to run their exhibition on 13th and 14th September 2025 at the Sports Complex be agreed.
- v) The option for the Sports Complex to stay open if either of the home nations are successful in the European Championships and there is a demand; be agreed.

16. PARKS UPDATE

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report providing Members with an update relating to Parks.

A verbal update was also given regarding the extension to the football season due to the adverse weather which meant the report regarding the 2024/25 football pitch allocations would be delayed until July.

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft, seconded by Councillor Eddy Adam and:

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report be received.

17. OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX – 2024/25 SERVICE PLAN

The Sports Complex Manager submitted the 2024/25 Oak Leaf Sports Complex Service Plan for members consideration and approval.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- i) The report be received.
- ii) The 2024/25 Oak Leaf Sports Complex Service Plan be approved.

Chairman