

Minutes of the special meeting of the **Leisure Sub-Committee** held on **9 October 2001** when there were present:

Cllr J R F Mason – Chairman

Cllr T G Cutmore
Cllr D R Helson
Cllr Mrs J Helson
Cllr A Hosking

Cllr T Livings
Cllr Mrs M Vince
Cllr Mrs M J Webster

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J E Grey

OFFICERS PRESENT

R Crofts	Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)
J Bourne	Leisure and Contracts Manager
E McIllwaine	Leisure Client Officer
A Wyatt	Committee Administrator.

122 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 September 2001 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

123 MILL HALL LIFT

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) which provided Members with an update on the problems that had recently occurred with the disabled lift at Mill Hall and the need to replace the lift as part of the requirement to provide disability access to the building. During discussion, the following was raised: -

- There was a need to repair the lift at Mill Hall urgently. It was considered, however, that Leisure Connection should be approached on whether they would be prepared to contribute towards the cost of the repairs.
- It was considered that the issue of the installation of a stair lift at Mill Hall should also be investigated.

- It was considered that the issue of the lift at Mill Hall should be brought to the attention of the new leisure contractor once the contract was let in the New Year.
- The employment of a consultant to undertake a review of disabled access at all Council buildings was to be welcomed.
- The leisure contractor should be discouraged from using the lift for carrying goods from floor to floor in Mill Hall, indeed a stair climbing trolley should be provided which could be used for bringing heavy items between the ground and first floors.
- Mindful of the condition of the lift at Mill Hall, update information should be provided on the status of the lift at Freight House.
- Given that monitoring the use of the lift at Mill Hall could prove difficult, Officers should look into the installation of a weight limit alarm on the lift to maximise its useful life.

On a motion put by Councillor Mrs M J Webster, seconded by Councillor T G Cutmore and further amended by the Sub-Committee it was: -

RECOMMENDED to Council

- (1) That the interim works to keep the Mill Hall lift running for a further year be agreed at a cost £2,700, although Leisure Connection be requested to contribute towards the cost of these works.
- (2) That Officers investigate further the installation of a stair lift at Mill Hall.
- (3) That the issue of the lift at Mill Hall be a priority for the new leisure contractor upon taking on the contract in the New Year.
- (4) That an update be provided on the condition of the lift at Freight House.
- (5) That a stair climbing trolley be provided for use at Mill Hall.
- (6) That Members be advised when the works to the lift be carried out.
- (7) That Officers investigate the use of a alarmed weight limit system on the lift at Mill Hall. (CD(F&ES))

124 DIGITAL CINEMA

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) which provided Members with information concerning the future marketing of the cinema at Mill Hall.

During consideration of the issues raised in the report, the following items were raised: -

- Improved marketing through the use of Royal Mail's "Door to Door" service as had been used for the Christmas refuse collection information leaflet.
- Better use of notice boards, the press, libraries and Council Offices.
- The need for better availability of the Mill Hall Saturday mornings for Saturday morning cinema.
- The need to keep Southend College on board with the cinema proposals.

On a motion put by D R Helson, seconded by Councillor Mrs J Helson and further amended by the Sub-Committee, it was: -

RECOMMENDED to Council:-

- (1) That the marketing for the cinema at Mill Hall be undertaken by:-
 - (a) A5 flyers for the proposed programmes of screenings for the next six months to be sent to all households within five mile radius of the cinema using the Post Office "door to door service".
 - (b) Advertising monthly in the "Whats on" column of the local press.
 - (c) Actively encouraging seminar and conferences to use the facility.
 - (d) Poster displays in Council Offices in Rochford and Rayleigh, libraries, leisure centres and shops together with Council and Parish notice boards (to include advertisements of bar facilities)
- (2) That sporting events be screened via the sky digital arrangements
- (3) That a budget of £3,000 be allocated for the period up to 31 March 2002.

- (4) That a questionnaire be placed in Rochford District Matters seeking residents views on what films they wished to see at the cinema.
- (5) That Officers report back on the following issues:-
 - (a) The losses from the cinema proposal.
 - (b) The potential for a mutually beneficially sponsorship arrangement with block-buster video.
 - (c) The specification of the sound system installed at Mill Hall.
 - (d) The costings for adult versus childrens cinema.
 - (e) The possibility of a special Golden Jubilee cinema to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.
 - (f) The potential to re-arrange the seating into bingo style seating with tables in between. (CD(F&ES))

The Meeting closed at 8.50pm

Chairman

Date