
Minutes of the meeting of **Leisure Sub-Committee** held on **8 January 2002** when there were present:

Cllr J R F Mason (Chairman)
Cllr T G Cutmore
Cllr J E Grey
Cllr D R Helson
Cllr Mrs J Helson

Cllr T Livings
Cllr Mrs M S Vince
Cllr D A Weir
Cllr M J Webster

APOLOGIES

Cllr A Hosking
Cllr C C Langlands

OFFICERS PRESENT

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

131 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs D R Helson and J R F Mason declared non-pecuniary interests in the item “Rochford Town Sports and Social Club – Application for new lease on the pavilion at Rochford Recreation Ground, Rochford” (Minute 136) by virtue of being Members of Rochford Sports Council. Cllr Mrs M S Vince declared a non-pecuniary interest in the same item by virtue of living in Doggetts Close.

132 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2001 were approved as correct record and signed by the Chairman.

133 LEISURE CONNECTION MANAGEMENT REPORT

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) which provided details of the latest Management Report from Leisure Connection plc. Wendy Edwards from Leisure Connection attended the meeting to answer Members questions. During item-by-item analysis of the Report the following points were raised:-

Clement’s Hall

Members noted that mobile CCTV cameras had successfully been deployed to Clement’s Hall, bringing about the recent conviction of two locker thieves. It was further noted that the Youth Service had agreed

to send their Outreach Group to the site in an attempt to alleviate youth nuisance problems that were occurring in the area, although they had indicated an unwillingness to become involved should alcohol abuse be apparent. The Sub-Committee was disappointed to note that the mobile CCTV camera had not been deployed to investigate these youth nuisance issues, although the limitations of the mobile CCTV camera were noted. Members were advised that Leisure Connection made every effort to ensure all fire exits were not opened as convenient access/egress for customers and would investigate the use of signage to further strengthen this point.

It was agreed that the youth nuisance issues at Clement's Hall should be brought to the attention of the Community Safety Sub-Committee. Furthermore, the question of security at leisure facilities should be brought before the Contract Sub-Committee for consideration during its deliberations of the forthcoming leisure contract.

Mill Hall

It was noted that the cinema project at Mill Hall was still evolving with a survey currently underway, although initial responses had indicated support for afternoon/matinee performances and Friday/Saturday evenings. Officers undertook to chase up the issue of Memberships, which we had been applied for but, as yet, not received.

Freight House

Mention was made of the difference between comfortable numbers in function rooms at Freight House and the maximum permitted according to the Public Entertainment Licence. Leisure Connection advised they determined the customer's requirements by function type and worked with potential clients to avoid overcrowding/uncomfortable events.

Mention was further made of the commuter parking problems at Freight House and the potential ways to resolve the matter.

Following discussion, Members thanked Mrs Edwards for her attendance and she then left the meeting.

134 SERVICETEAM – GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) which provided details of the latest Management Report from Serviceteam. Gary Such from Serviceteam attended the meeting to answer Members questions.

During item-by-item analysis of the report the following points were raised:-

Grass Cutting

Members were advised that it was the national practice to cut grass areas and blow the cuttings back onto the grassed areas rather than collecting the cuttings.

Dog Waste Bins

Members noted that Serviceteam now emptied dog waste bins on specified days. Whilst the Contractor could not be held responsible for acts of vandalism, including members of the public emptying dog waste bins themselves, they did attempt to respond to each instance, when notified, to clear the areas up.

Parking on Grass Verges

Members expressed concern at the damage caused to grass verges by Contractors vehicles parking on the grassed areas during routine maintenance. Noting the Contractors difficulties with parking and balancing this against the poor public view of such acts, Members agreed to advise Serviceteam of such instances in the District in order that the matter be investigated and that local solutions to the problems might be found.

Members thanked Mr Such for his presentation and he then left the meeting.

135 CASTLE HALL PROGRESS REPORT

The Sub-Committee noted the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) which provided Members with updated information in relation to the noise problems at Castle Hall and in particular the recommendations that were made at the meeting of this Sub-Committee on 6 November 2001.

Noting the costs involved in installing various noise limiting measures, Members considered the matter should be reported back for consideration following the negotiations with the preferred Contractor in the new Leisure Management Contract process.

136 ROCHFORD TOWN SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB – APPLICATION FOR NEW LEASE ON PAVILION AT ROCHFORD RECREATION GROUND, ROCHFORD

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) which sought Members views on the

issue of a new lease for the Pavilion at Rochford Recreation Ground, prior to organising consultation with all interested parties. Noting both the details of the report and also the information which had been presented to the Finance and General Purposes Committee in December 2001, Members considered that Officers should investigate further the transfer of the Recreation Ground to the National Playing Field Association and report back on whether the transfer could be revoked.

Furthermore, Members raised concerns at the club's constitution considering there to be a lack of sports mentioned. It was considered that in light of these concerns, Rochford Town Sports and Social Club should be requested to submit a full Business Plan outlining their aims and objectives for the future of the pavilion before any consultation takes place. On a motion put by Cllr Mrs J Helson, seconded by Cllr T G Cutmore and further amended by the Sub-Committee, it was

RECOMMENDED that Rochford Sports and Social Club be requested to submit a full business plan outlining their aims and objectives for the future of the pavilion at Rochford Recreation Ground. Furthermore, they be asked to clarify their constitution's aims, in particular those relating to sports. (CD(FES))

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Chairman

Date