

Minutes of the meeting of the **Leisure Sub-Committee** held on **13 March 2001** when there were present:

Cllr D M Ford (Chairman)

Cllr T G Cutmore
Cllr K A Gibbs
Cllr J E Grey
Cllr D R Helson
Cllr A Hosking

Cllr C C Langlands
Cllr T Livings
Cllr Mrs S J Lemon
Cllr Mrs M J Webster
Cllr D A Weir

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J R F Mason and K Salt, Advisor from the Rochford Hundred Association of Local Councils.

SUBSTITUTES

Councillor R E Vingoe.

VISITING

Councillor P F A Webster.

OFFICERS PRESENT

R Crofts	-	Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)
Miss E McIlwaine	-	Leisure Client Officer
G Dawson	-	Parks Officer
J Bostock	-	Principal Committee Administrator

98 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 February 2001 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the inclusion of apologies from Cllr C C Langlands.

99 LEISURE CONNECTION MANAGEMENT REPORT

The Sub-Committee received the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) on the latest Leisure Connection Management report. David Morgan from Leisure Connection attended the meeting to answer Members' questions relating to the report. Observations were made on certain aspects as follows:-

(1) Clements Hall Leisure Centre

Reference was made to the ongoing problems being experienced with the showers. Reference was made to the possibility that, if not already fitted, limescale filters may bring improvement. Officers confirmed that this would be investigated. It was also confirmed that the current admission fee for non-members is 50 pence.

(2) Park Sports Centre

NOTE: Cllr Mrs M J Webster declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item by virtue of being a Governor of SEEVIC.

Responding to Member questions, David Morgan confirmed that he would investigate current provision of refreshment/bar facilities.

(3) Great Wakering Sports Centre

The Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) confirmed that Sports Centre re-roofing would be required. The cost of approximately £20,000 could be financed from the capital sum for building maintenance. It was anticipated it would take three to four months to complete the project.

(4) Mill Hall

During discussion of the video projection facility, Members agreed a motion moved by Councillor D R Helson and seconded by Councillor Mrs S J Lemon on the submission of a detailed report to the next meeting of Full Council.

Responding to Member questions David Morgan outlined the nature of a recent incident whereby hirers had been responsible for some vandalism activity outside the property. Such incidences were extremely rare and staff would always communicate with the Police as appropriate. It was confirmed that a range of media was used for marketing leisure facilities to reach existing and potential customers.

RECOMMENDED

That a report be submitted to the next meeting of Full Council on how the video projection equipment in Mill Hall will be operated, including the following aspects:-

- Who will be able to use the equipment
- Arrangements for hiring to groups
- Regular children film shows
- Charging policy, including additional for Weddings, conferences

- When will first public showing be
- Policy in respect of the new Leisure Contract
- Marketing/promotion. (CD(F&ES))

100 MAINTENANCE ISSUES – LEISURE BUILDINGS

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services) which provided details of costs relating to maintenance issues that had been discussed at the last meeting of the Sub-Committee.

(1) Clements Hall Leisure Centre Showers

Responding to Member questions, the Corporate Director advised that, in working with specialists to draw up a final specification for work to rectify problems, account would be taken of whether factors such as limescale or incorrect water flow are part of the problem.

The Sub-Committee concurred with the view of a Member that consideration should be given to the availability of other perhaps more simple systems, such as found at Warrior Square Swimming complex, which may provide a solution to the problems.

RECOMMENDED

That Officers reports further on this subject to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee, including the availability of alternative systems.
(CD(F&ES))

(2) Park Sports Centre Squash Courts

The Corporate Director (Finance and External Services) confirmed that signage would be produced advising customers of work being undertaken.

(3) Freight House Security Lights

The Corporate Director (Finance and External Services) advised that planning permission would not be required for the lights. Prices indicated in the report were only a guideline and the Council would have to go out to competitive tender.

RECOMMENDED

That a report setting out specific proposals be submitted to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee, the cost element of the report to be exempt. (CD(F&ES))

101 THE ESSEX ACTIVE SPORT PARTNERSHIP**Note**

Councillor D M Ford declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item by virtue of being the Council's representative on the Partnership.

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services) which provided an update on the Essex Active Sport Partnership and sought an extension to the Council's commitment to the Partnership from 5 to 7 years, terminating in 2007. Rochford's commitment amounted to an annual contribution of £1,000, for which provision had been made within the core budget.

During debate a Member referred to the non-statutory nature of this type of service and to the fact that acceptance of the arrangement could commit the Council to a project which would be in existence beyond the duration of the life of the current Council's membership. The Sub-Committee felt that, given the clear financial and resource benefits to the Council, the proposals should be supported. It was noted that the Council had Member and Officer representation on the Partnership.

RECOMMENDED

That Rochford District Council's commitment to the Essex Active Sports Partnership be extended for an additional 2 years. (CD(F&ES))

102 RAYLEIGH BOYS FOOTBALL CLUB**Note**

The Chairman had accepted this item of business.

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services) on correspondence which had been received from Rayleigh Boys Football Club concerning the Fairview and Grove Playing Fields.

Members felt that, in the interests of ensuring the Council is accessible to those with concerns and given that there appeared to be some difference between perceptions of pitch condition, a site visit would be appropriate.

RECOMMENDED

That a meeting be arranged with representatives of the Rayleigh Boys Club with a report on the outcome submitted to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee, this Council's representatives to include the Chairman

of the Sub-Committee, Ward Councillors and a representative from each Group. (CD(F&ES))

Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved

That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

103 NEW LEISURE CONTRACT – THE WAY FORWARD

The Sub-Committee considered the proposals set out in the information memorandum document drawn up by the Council's Leisure Consultants for use by parties who wish to be considered for inclusion in the short-list for the Public Private Partnership Contract relating to leisure.

In presenting this item and responding to Member questions, the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services) advised that-

- The document was in draft format and would need to be revised to include some of the amendments and suggestions made at Full Council on 19 December 2000.
- In view of the timescales, involved it was proposed that, once the Contracts Sub-Committee had also had opportunity to consider the document, the Council's urgency procedure would be utilised.
- An objective had been to produce a document which would enable the private sector to come forward with ideas.
- Matters such as review clauses and arbitration would be considered at the detailed specification stage.
- Most companies tendering for the contract would no doubt make visits to existing facilities and undertake a close review of pricing structures.

Members reviewed the document section by section so that views could be submitted to the meeting on the Contracts Sub-Committee on 16 March.

A revised copy of the document containing the suggestions of the Leisure Sub-Committee is attached as an exempt appendix to the bound copy of these Minutes.

Prior to the close of the meeting the Chairman wished to extend his thanks to Members and Officers for all their assistance and work over the last year.

The meeting closed at 9.52pm

Chairman.....

Date.....