

## **Leisure Sub-Committee – 9 January 2001**

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Leisure Sub-Committee** held on **20 September 2000** when there were present:

Cllr D M Ford - Chairman

Cllr K A Gibbs

Cllr J E Grey

Cllr C C Langlands

Cllr Mrs S J Lemon

Cllr J R F Mason

Cllr Mrs M J Webster

### **VISITING MEMBER**

Cllr R Adams

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D R Helson and T Livings

### **SUBSTITUTES**

Councillors V H Leach and P F A Webster

### **OFFICERS ATTENDING**

R Crofts

G Dawson

A Wyatt

Corporate Director ( Finance and External Services)

Parks Officer

Committee Administrator

## **83 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 June 2000 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to Councillor Mrs J M Giles being removed from the list of Visiting Members; and it being noted that she was a Substitute Member for that Meeting.

## **84 LEISURE CONNECTION MANAGEMENT REPORT**

The Sub-Committee noted the report of the Head of Leisure and Client Services with regard to the latest Leisure Connection Management Report. Mrs Wendy Edwards from Leisure Connection attended the Meeting to answer Members questions relating to the report. The following points were clarified during discussion:-

### Customer Service Quality (CSQ) Summary Table

In noting key strengths and weaknesses identifying for Clements Hall Leisure Centre, a Member requested that comparison information be made available to all Members in order for customer satisfaction to be properly monitored.

### Mill Hall Crèche

Members noted that the popularity of Mill Hall Crèche was increasing. It was further noted that the two hour time limit for Crèche users was set by Social Services as an acceptable amount of time for a child to be away from its parents.

Further to the debate on the increased usage of the recently refurbished Mill Hall, a Member made a reference to the traffic survey being undertaken by Essex County Council with regard to the Rayleigh Town Centre enhancements and requested that the Mill Hall usage figures and car park usage figures be made available to Essex County Council for use within their survey.

Members thanked Mrs Edwards for her attendance. She then left the Meeting.

### 85 GREAT WAKERING CYCLE SPEEDWAY CLUB (Minute 798/83)

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Leisure and Client Services which advised Members of the current arrangements in connection with the Great Wakering Cycle Speedway Club's use of the cycle speedway track at Great Wakering and sought Member's endorsement for the future management and maintenance of the track.

Noting that bicycle speedway was a minority sport, Members considered that the proposal should be endorsed with funding being secured from the Crime & Disorder Reduction Strategy Budget.

### RECOMMENDED

- (1) That Officers assist the club in applying for a grant to renew the track fencing.
- (2) (a) That the matter be referred to the Corporate Resources Sub-Committee to consider awarding a one off grant of £3,700 to the club to concrete the perimeter of the track during the 2001/2 Financial Year.

This to be funded from the Crime & Disorder Reduction Strategy Budget.

- (b) That the club's use of the track be formalised by preparing a licence, the terms and conditions of which to be agreed by the Head of Legal Services.
- (c) That the licence fee to be set at a nominal amount.
- (3) That Officers assist the club in advertising the facility in order to attract additional Members. (CD(F&ES))

### **86 FAIRVIEW TENNIS COURTS (Minute 196/00)**

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Leisure and Client Services which advised Members of the results of the Public Consultation Exercise undertaken relating to the future use of the above facility and seeking Members views on the way forwards.

Members noted that, of the 62 responses received, 57 had stated that they wished the retention of the tennis courts. Concurring with this wish, Members considered that the Sports Development Officer should investigate the possibility of Summer Tennis School or training sessions and also the matter of hire of equipment as appropriate.

#### **RECOMMENDED**

- (1) That the results of the consultation be noted.
- (2) That the tennis courts be retained.
- (3) That the sum of £10,800 be released from Community Services Budgets to enable the resurfacing of the tennis courts to proceed. (CD(F&ES))

### **87 MEETING WITH RAYLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL AND ROCHFORD SPORTS COUNCIL**

The Sub-Committee was advised by the Chairman of correspondence received from Rochford Sports Council relating to the Festival of Sports Finals day and issues which had arisen since Rayleigh Town Council had taken over responsibility for the management of King George's Playing Field, Rayleigh.

Noting the aim of the meeting with both party's, Members considered that the District Council should proceed with caution. It was agreed that a meeting should be arranged with the Chairman of leisure from Rayleigh Town Council and Rochford Sports Council, with the Chairman of Leisure Sub Committee and the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services) representing this Authority. Furthermore it was considered that the discussion should relate to the issues raised by the Sports Council relating to the Festival of Sports Finals day only, as the Town Council were now responsible for the management of the site, and any other issues raised were not the responsibility of this Authority.

### RECOMMENDED

That a meeting be arranged with Rayleigh Town Council (Chairman of Leisure) and Rochford Sports Council, with the Chairman of Leisure Sub Committee and the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services) representing this Authority, to discuss the Festival of Sports Finals day on King George's Playing Field, Rayleigh (CD(FES))

### 88 URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS – FIREWORK DISPLAY ON KING GEORGES PLAYING FIELD

**Note:** the chairman admitted this urgent item of business as Rayleigh Lions preparation timetable for the forthcoming fireworks event would not admit delay

The Sub Committee were advised of a letter received from Rayleigh Town Council relating to Rayleigh Lions Annual Fireworks Display on King George's Playing Field, Rayleigh. Members were further requested to consider the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services) being authorised to take back responsibility for the fireworks event.

By way of background, it was noted that in accordance with the Charity Commission's scheme, Rayleigh Town Council had become responsible for the Management of the Playing Field, including all bookings. An event on 20 August had, after correspondence, been honoured by the Town Council with assistance from District Council Officers. Further to this, a letter had been received from Rayleigh Town Council stating that they were now looking to this Authority to take back responsibility for the Annual Fireworks display.

Noting the request and the debate relating to the previous item, Members expressed disappointment at the letter. Mindful of the situation Rayleigh Lions were now in, Members considered that the request from Rayleigh Town Council should not be allowed. Furthermore it was considered that this Authority should take positive steps to both investigate the matter further and alternatives for Rayleigh Lions in order for their event to not be affected.

A motion put by Cllr V H Leach and seconded by Cllr PFA Webster was won on a show of hands and it was:

### RECOMMENDED

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- (1) That the matter be referred to Full Council.
- (2) That officers contact both the Chairman of Rayleigh Town Council and the Chairman of the Committee with responsibility for Leisure at Rayleigh Town Council in order to ascertain whether correspondence received had the endorsement of the Town Council as a whole
- (3) That officers investigate alternative arrangements/venues for Rayleigh Lions Fireworks display
- (4) That provision is made in the budgets for this Authority to make good any losses to the Lions should the event not take place.
- (5) That once the investigation relating to Rec 2 are known, that a press release be issued. (CD(FES))

The Meeting closed at 10.00pm

Chairman

Date