

Minutes of the meeting of the **Leisure Sub-Committee** held on **13 June 2000** when there were present:

Cllr D M Ford

Cllr K A Gibbs

Cllr J E Grey

Cllr D R Helson

Cllr C C Langlands

Cllr T Livings

Cllr Mrs S J Lemon

Cllr J R F Mason

Cllr Mrs M J Webster

Cllr D A Weir

VISITING MEMBER

Cllrs R F R Adams, Mrs R Brown, Mrs J M Giles and P F A Webster.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A Hosking.

SUBSTITUTES

Cllr Mrs J M Giles

OFFICERS PRESENT

P Warren – Chief Executive

E McIlwaine – Leisure Client Officer

A Wyatt – Committee Administrator

73 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr D M Ford was nominated Chairman of the Sub-Committee for the Municipal year.

74 MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 March 2000 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

75 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr D R Helson declared a non pecuniary interest in the item “Leisure Consultancy (Minute 15 Community Services Urgency Sub-Committee)” by virtue of being a member of Rochford Sports Council.

Cllr Mrs J M Giles declared a non pecuniary interest in the item “Leisure Connection Management Report” by virtue of being a user of facilities at the Mill Hall.

Cllr R F R Adams declared a non pecuniary interest in the item “Fairview Tennis Courts” by virtue of being a user of the facility.

76 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Sub-Committee noted the terms of reference for the Leisure Sub-Committee as agreed at Annual Council on 18 May 2000.

77 LEISURE CONSULTANCY (Minute 15, Community Services Urgency Sub-Committee)

The Sub-Committee welcomed Mr Robin Thompson, Director, and Mrs Fran Hodkinson, Principal Consultant, from PMP Consultancy who were attending the Meeting to present to Members the process PMP wished to follow when undertaking public consultation as part of the Leisure Options Review, having been appointed as Leisure Consultants to the Council to explore a number of possible options for the future delivery of leisure in the District.

With the aid of a flip chart Mr Thompson and Mrs Hodkinson presented to Members PMP Consultancy's aims in reviewing leisure service provision for the District, in particular the consultation exercise to be undertaken as one of the initial steps of the review. It was noted that the consultation would be undertaken by a number of different methods to ensure a cross section response and therefore a robust research methodology. Having noted the full review process proposed by PMP, Members' questions were answered specifically relating to the following:-

- Concern at the use of the District Council's newspaper, given that not all residents in the District received the free press.
- The need to ensure freepost reply service for the consultation to ensure maximum response.
- The need for the review to be all encompassing and not focused at just sport and leisure facility provision.
- Final report to show the financial implications of all the options.
- The format of any detailed questionnaire and the value of Member input into its design.
- An identification of sites where both existing and potential facilities could be considered under PFI.
- The possibility of reduced fees for residents of the District.

Members thanked Mr Thompson and Mrs Hodkinson for their presentation and it was

RECOMMENDED

That the proposals put forward by PMP Consultancy for undertaking public consultation in relation to the review of leisure be endorsed. (HLCS)

78 LEISURE BEST VALUE

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive which outlined the concept of Best Value to Leisure Services and sought Members input into the process.

In noting the Best Value process and its implications on the provision of leisure services and also the work being undertaken by PMP Consultancy as part of the Leisure Service Review, Members were advised that a Member Workshop to be arranged on the Leisure Review would be open to all Members of the Council.

During discussion, the following points were considered appropriate for inclusion in the Best Value Review:-

- An all encompassing review of leisure including facility provision, tourism, sports and recreation, arts and culture.
- A consistent approach to the provision of parking at leisure facilities.

RECOMMENDED

- (1) That the implications of Best Value in respect of Leisure Services be noted.
- (2) That issues including facility provision, tourism, sports and recreation, arts, culture and a consistent approach to parking at leisure facilities be taken into account in the Best Value Review process for leisure. (CEX)

79 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 and Mr David Morgan from Leisure Connection attended the meeting to answer Members' questions relating to the report. The following points were clarified during discussion:-

Clements Hall Leisure Centre – Astro Turf Usage

Members noted that the use of the astroturf for tennis as well as 5 a-side football was not a new initiative, merely that the astro turf had a dual use.

Park Sports Centre

It was noted that the fire safety items, as agreed at the last meeting of Leisure Sub-Committee, had been put in place and that Norfolk Property Services had been requested to carry out necessary works as identified and approved by Members.

Mill Hall and Castle Hall

Members were pleased to note that the refurbishment at Mill Hall had not had a significant impact on usage. However, it was further noted that the work had taken slightly longer due to the nature of works being tailored around the use of the hall on specific days.

Whilst considering Mill Hall a Member wished it placed on record their thanks for the way in which the management had dealt with a recent incident.

Health and Safety

Members were advised that the health and safety reported accidents for the period January to March 2000 represented 0.04% of the total users for all leisure sites managed under contract by Leisure Connection.

80 SUMMER PLAYScheme SWIMMING PROVISION (Minute 287/99)

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of the Head of Leisure and Client Services which set out proposals for the operation of a summer swimming provision playscheme and suggested venues.

Noting the success of the previous year, and the update information provided by Officers, with Barling Primary School noted as a provisional booking and with Doggetts County Primary School's participation to be confirmed, Members endorsed the scheme and it was

RECOMMENDED

That the summer swimming scheme proceeds as detailed in the report. (HLCS)

81 FAIRVIEW TENNIS COURTS

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Leisure and Client Services which set out options for alternative uses of the tennis courts at Fairview Playing Field and requested direction from Members on the way forward following the request for a report on the matter at a previous meeting.

Members were divided as to the most appropriate future use of the area although unanimously considered that consultation on the matter should ultimately decide the future use of the site.

Further to this debate, Members considered that a bid in relation to free basketball goals from the Outdoor Basketball Initiative should be made for any site within the District, in order for the opportunity not to be lost should retention of the tennis courts be the preferred way forward.

RECOMMENDED

- (1) That the matter be deferred pending a public consultation exercise, to include the three options for tennis, basketball and five a side football, with the residential properties as those roads adjoining the site, with Rayleigh Town Council and with a reply paid service being used to ensure maximum response.

(The details of the consultation to be confirmed in consultation with the Chairman and Ward Members.)

- (2) That further, a bid be made to the English Basketball Association for four basketball goals for siting within the Rochford District.

82 YOUTH SPORT DEVELOPMENT GROUP (Minute 23/00)

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Leisure and Client Services Division which advised Members of the latest Youth Sports Development Group meeting held with young people in the District.

Members wished to commend Officers for all the work undertaken on the matter of youth sport and it was

RECOMMENDED

That the report be noted. (HLCS)

The Meeting closed at 9.50pm

Chairman

Date