

Leisure Sub-Committee

9 October 2001

Minutes of a Meeting of the **Leisure Sub-Committee** held on **11 September 2001** when there were present:-

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

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr K A Gibbs

SUBSTITUTES

Cllr P F A Webster

OFFICERS PRESENT

R Crofts	Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)
J Bourne	Leisure & Contracts Manager
Ms S Worthington	Committee Administrator

115 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors A Hosking and P F A Webster declared non-pecuniary interests in the items on the Leisure Connection Management Report (Minute 117) and Clements Hall Showers (Minute 122) by virtue of being users of facilities at Clements Hall Leisure Centre.

Cllr J R F Mason declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item on the Leisure Connection Management Report by virtue of being a representative of the Hawkwell Residents' Association on the District Council.

116 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 August 2001 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

117 LEISURE CONNECTION MANAGEMENT REPORT

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) on the latest Leisure Connection Management Report. Wendy Edwards from Leisure Connection attended

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the meeting to answer Members questions relating to the report. Observations were made on certain aspects as follows:-

a) Park Sports Centre

Members were advised that an athletics club, currently advertised at the centre, could take place at any of the sports centres.

Increased usage figures for 5-aside football during April – June 2001 compared to the same period last year were due to the closure of the pitch last year for re-surfacing.

b) Mill Hall

Members were disappointed to note that usage figures for the crèche were low.

Concern was raised about the lift at Mill Hall. There have been a number of breakdowns recently as it is designed only for wheelchair use. All groups with bookings at Mill Hall should be informed about the limited use of the lift.

On a motion moved by Cllr Mrs M J Webster and seconded by Cllr T G Cutmore, it was agreed that a report advising on various options for repairing or replacing the lift, with costings, should be brought to a special meeting of the Sub-Committee. The report should also explore the possibility of installing a chairlift on the staircase.

Members did not consider that a distinction should be made in the report between Asian weddings and other weddings.

Take-up for the digital cinema was disappointing, particularly among children. Members considered that a report should be brought to the special meeting of this Sub-Committee with proposals on how the cinema could be marketed in the future.

c) Castle Hall

Surprise was expressed about complaints received from residents relating to noise. Members were concerned that revenue was being lost as a result of no bookings being taken for special occasion parties. Measures have been taken to help minimise the noise nuisance to residents, and the situation has improved.

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On a motion moved by Cllr A Hosking and seconded by Cllr T G Cutmore it was:-

RECOMMENDED

- (1) That Leisure Connection should consider the installation of decibel meters at Castle Hall.
- (2) That Leisure Connection should resume taking bookings for and actively promote special occasion functions.
- (3) That polite notices relating to noise should be displayed inside Castle Hall.
- (4) That a report monitoring progress should be brought to the next scheduled meeting of this Sub-Committee. (CD (F&ES))

Usage figures for the premises were lower than last year, with the exception of Mill Hall. It was anomalous that good customer comments were received, while a comparison of performance indicators, year on year, highlighted a decline in performance.

Members noted the contents of the report, subject to the comments listed above.

118. LEISURE BUILDINGS CAPITAL PROGRAMME PROGRESS

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) providing an update on progress of schemes carried out on leisure buildings from the capital budget of £150,000 set aside for 2001/02.

The report identified works that needed to be undertaken this year that had been highlighted in the Building Condition Survey:

Air handling unit, heat recovery coil inside the swimming pool area, Clements Hall	£12,000
Roof over squash courts 5-7, Clements Hall	£10,000
Terrace roof and roof paving, Mill Hall	£13,000

There was concern that, as a result of the problem with the air handling unit, the temperature in the Clements Hall swimming pool room was

unbearably high. Customers could be driven to seek alternative swimming facilities if works were not carried out soon.

On a motion moved by Cllr P F A Webster and seconded by Cllr J E Grey it was confirmed that the additional schemes would be pursued by the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) under his delegated authority. (CD (F&ES))

119. ROCHFORD RESIDENTS/LEISURE CARD

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) providing details of the aspects that are to be investigated in researching the possibility of implementing a Rochford Leisure Card.

During discussion Members identified the following objectives for introducing such a scheme:

- To offer residents an opportunity of using leisure facilities at a slightly reduced rate, thereby encouraging increased usage and generating more income.
- To use a swipe card scheme as a tool to gather information about users in order to market and develop leisure services more accurately and to improve services to customers.

The costs of introducing a swipe card scheme should be identified, including any ongoing administrative costs. Concern was expressed that the costs of introducing such a scheme should not outweigh the possible income to be generated.

The views of contractors bidding to implement a leisure card scheme should also be examined.

Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) would ensure that these issues would be addressed in the full report to be brought to this Sub-Committee on 6 November 2001.

120. WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE ARTS – CONSULTATION DOCUMENT FROM THE ARTS COUNCIL OF ENGLAND

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) providing information on the Arts Council of England's (ACE) plans for the future support of the arts in England. ACE and the Regional Arts Boards (RABs) are inviting responses to the

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document on how the proposals are viewed and how they might work in practice.

Currently, the Arts Council of England and the Regional Arts Bodies are separate bodies. Under the ACE proposals the RABs would be linked to form one organisation with the intention of eliminating duplication of skills and functions.

During discussion Members confirmed that they favoured the ACE proposals, as they offered RABs the opportunity to act more locally, while allowing the ACE to maintain a co-ordinating role.

Concern was expressed about contradictions, under point 4.2, contained within the proposed responses to 1. and 3. It was agreed that the second sentence of point 1. should read:

Co-ordination of all ten RABs will ensure a consistent approach by the arts support system across the country.

RECOMMENDED

That this report forms this authority's response to the document "Working Together for the Arts", subject to the change to 4.2, point 1 noted above. (CD (F&ES))

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining business on the grounds that exempt information as defined in paragraph 8 of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed.

121. QUOTATION RETURNS, CLEMENTS HALL SHOWERS

The Sub-Committee considered the exempt report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) which provided an update on quotations received for conducting remedial works to the hot water and shower installations at Clements Hall. A motion was moved by Cllr J R F Mason and seconded by Cllr J E Grey that the quotations be noted.

The tender was based on the specification agreed at a meeting of this Sub-Committee on 21 August 2001.

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C H Lindsey & Son provided the most competitive quotation and had, additionally, completed other works for the Council to a high standard.

It was therefore confirmed that the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services), under his delegated authority, should appoint CH Lindsey & Son Ltd to carry out the remedial works at a total cost of £13,243.

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and finished at 8.55 pm.

Chairman

Date