

Minutes of the meeting of the **Leisure Sub-Committee** held on **17 February 2000** when there were present:

Cllr D M Ford - Chairman

Cllr J E Grey
Cllr N Harris
Cllr D R Helson

Cllr Mrs S J Lemon
Cllr Mrs M J Webster

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs P A Beckers, J M Dickson, K A Gibbs and Mrs A R Hutchings.

SUBSTITUTES

Cllrs Mrs J M Giles and V D Hutchings.

OFFICERS PRESENT

D Deeks	–	Head of Financial Services
M Goodman	–	Solicitor
Miss E McIlwaine	–	Leisure Client Officer
A Wyatt	–	Committee Administrator

67 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor Mrs J M Giles declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item 'Leisure Connection Management Report' (Minute 69) by virtue of being a user of facilities at Clements Hall.

68 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 January 2000 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

69 LEISURE CONNECTION MANAGEMENT REPORT

The Sub-Committee noted the report of the Head of Leisure & 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:-

Trampoline Coaching

Members noted that a course teaching the above had been found in Chelmsford; it was the intention of Leisure Connection to send staff on the course in order to resume the cancelled trampoline course held at Great Wakering Sports Centre. The problem of training and subsequent loss of staff was not uncommon within leisure facility management.

Castle Hall

The Sub-Committee were advised that the storage heaters at Castle Hall had now been replaced at the expense of Leisure Connection.

Usage Figures

In noting the downturn in the usage figures for the quarter October to December 1998 and 1999, Members were advised that some activities in multi-usage area precluded the use for other activities, (e.g. five-a-side football) and that this could explain some of the reduction in figures for the year. The Company continued to promote its activities throughout the media and at present the reduced figures did not cause concern.

70 FIRE SAFETY INSPECTION – PARK SPORTS CENTRE (Minute 23/00)

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Leisure & Client Services which provided information on a fire safety inspection carried out at Park Sports Centre following a request from Members at the last meeting of the Sub-Committee.

Noting the contents of the report and that the Appendix to the report had been drawn up by Council Officers following a meeting on site with Essex County Council Fire and Rescue Service, Members considered that it would be appropriate for Officers to contact Essex County Council on the matter and also for a site visit to be arranged. On a show of hands it was:-

RECOMMENDED

- (1) That Officers write to Essex County Council seeking their views and risk assessment of the works detailed in the Appendix to the report. Should the response not be forthcoming by 24 February 2000 that works should begin on the smaller items such as running man signage and white painting of stair treads with 50% of the cost being offset against the costs for future works to the Park School site.

- (2) That a site visit be arranged to Park Sports Centre with the Community Services Committee being invited to attend. The site visit to be followed by a meeting of the Leisure Sub-Committee with an Urgency Sub-Committee of the Community Services Committee being immediately called after to ratify decisions made. (HLCS, HFS)

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

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Chairman

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Date