

SOUTHWATER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Leisure Management Sub-Committee (being a sub-committee of the Finance and General Purposes Committee) meeting held on Wednesday, 6th January 2016 commencing at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Beeson House, Southwater.

Present Were: **Mrs P. Flores-Moore (Chair)**

Mr L. Apted

Mr P. Buckley

Mr G. Cole

Mr A. Green

Mr B. Greening

Mr G. Watkins

Mr N. Whitear

Clerk: **Mrs J. Nagy**

Leisure Centre: **Mr S. Brew, Leisure Centre Manager**

District Councillors: **Apologies received**

Public: **One**

LC44/01/16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman wished everyone a Happy New Year.

She advised those present of the housekeeping rules in terms of fire and health and safety. The Chairman asked that Members of Council ensure that any mobile phone was either turned off or alternatively put on silent mode. The Chairman indicated the safety precautions in the event of a fire or alarm being sounded. Should any member of Council wish to leave the meeting at any time to take an emergency call, they should do so through the Chair.

Mr Whitear said that a new gym based in Horsham had advertised in the December issue of Southwater Life, and he asked why similar adverts were not appearing for Southwater Gym.

Mr Brew said that a monthly advert for Southwater does appear in Southwater Life. The direct debit memberships remain fairly static, however much advertising is carried out.

The Deputy Clerk asked if the “New Year New You” banner had gone up at Hangman’s Hill roundabout. Mr Brew said that it had not; it was suggested that this go up as soon as possible.

Mrs Flores-Moore said that Southwater Gym could not compete with, for example Bluecoats, which was the nearest competitor.

Mr Whitear said that he has marketing experience, and would be happy to assist in the marketing of the Gym and the Leisure Centre.

LC45/01/16 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies, all Committee members being present.

LC46/01/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at this point.

LC47/01/16 MINUTES

It was RESOLVED by all present, that the Leisure Centre Sub-Committee Meeting minutes dated 7th October 2015 having already been agreed by Council, should be taken as a true and correct record of the meeting held.

LC48/01/16 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had no announcements.

LC49/01/16 CORRESPONDENCE

Planning application to retain storage container

Notification from Horsham District Council has been received that the application to retain the storage container adjacent to the bowls green will be refused.

The original permission was for five years, and expires on 1st January 2016; this being on the basis that this was a temporary arrangement. Indeed, it does say in the decision notice that permission would not normally be granted in this location, given that it is next to a public footpath, but has made an exception in this instance. In addition, the decision refers to a hedge being planted to screen the container – this was planted, but was subsequently vandalised and not replaced.

Mr Watkins said that he would be happy to represent the Council at an appeal.

It was RESOLVED that the Deputy Clerk will investigate and progress the appeal process.

LC50/01/16 LEISURE CENTRE MANAGER'S REPORT

The Chairman referred Members to the Leisure Centre Manager's January Report and asked whether there were any comments or questions Members wished to make.

The Chairman asked why the karate booking had now ceased to use the Leisure Centre. Mr Brew said that the Junior Academy offered a cheaper rate. He has since filled the space with a booking that generated a higher revenue.

Mr Buckley noted that Code 4100 for rent expenditure has £3848 allocated against it, when it has no budget, so this needs to be investigated and transferred.

Mr Buckley also noted that Income Codes 1400 and 1410 for Function and Catering Income had no income against them. Mr Brew said that there was some income yet to be reconciled against these codes, but not many functions

have taken place. The budget for this income was inappropriate in his opinion.

The Deputy Clerk asked if the 2016/2017 Budget had a similar allocation against these codes; Mr Brew replied that it did, and was still too high.

The Deputy Clerk advised Councillors that a new Functions leaflet had just been printed.

Mr Brew said that the Council would either have to invest a large amount of money in the Leisure Centre so as to promote functions, or let it stay as it is.

Mrs Flores-Moore said that professional photos needed to be taken for the promotion of functions. The Deputy Clerk said that the photos were taken by a professional photographer, as the rooms were set up and “dressed” for the shoot.

Mr Whitear asked what the latest situation with regard to trampolining was. Mr Brew said that it was now only on Fridays, and Tim Kidd is to take over as coach after half term. The sessions used to be run by a professional coach, and Tim whilst properly trained, would be offering more of a fun activity, as it seemed that this is what the children wanted.

Mrs Flores-Moore asked about Urban Rebound, and Mr Brew advised that this is starting next week.

Mr Brew said the gym income is not recorded accurately, as fees, memberships and inductions all had different codes, and it appears that everything is going into fees. The Deputy Clerk asked if the split was made clear on the paperwork, and Mr Brew said that it was.

The Deputy Clerk will investigate this with the Accounts Team to ensure that the gym monies are correctly allocated.

Mr Green asked what effect the new gym in Horsham may have on Southwater Gym. Mr Brew replied that the new gym only had weights, so may attract some younger members to move.

LC51/01/16 SOUTHWATER LEISURE CENTRE PLAY AREA

The Deputy Clerk reported that the play equipment at the Leisure Centre was nearing the end of its useful life, having been on site some 25 years.

The Clerk has met with Anna Chapman, District Council Parks and Countryside Development Officer, to discuss future provision. A sum of £42000 has been identified in Section 106 agreements that could be used to provide new equipment on the following specification:

- Remove and replace existing small and large multi play units, to cater for all ages and abilities
- Repair or replace three small springers
- Provide and install three new units
- Install existing large horse rocker, currently in Church Lane play area, which is due to be de-commissioned as part of the Berkeley Homes’ development

- Provide connections between all units using appropriate surfacing
- Install new fencing, preferably out of recycled durable materials, which should be as flame retardant as possible

The Deputy Clerk is seeking the Committee's views in relation to this project, with a view to progressing it further.

It was RESOLVED that the Deputy Clerk would progress the project for the installation of new play equipment at the Leisure Centre, making an application for S106 monies to fund this.

LC52/01/16 MAINTENANCE

Mr Brew reported that the leaking window in his office had now been repaired, so he has been able to move back in.

A leak in the loft had been discovered, but repair to this had been authorised before Christmas; the work is due to take place imminently.

LC53/01/16 HEALTH & SAFETY

Members NOTED the schedule provided in the report.

LC54/01/16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be 7.00pm Wednesday 6th April 2016. This meeting would be followed by the Finance & General Purposes Committee at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm.