

LC05/04/13 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman has no announcements.

LC06/04/13 CORRESPONDENCE

None received.

LC07/04/13 LEISURE CENTRE MANAGER'S REPORT

The Deputy Clerk referred Members to the Manager's report dated April 2013 as circulated prior to the meeting and asked whether Members had any questions they wished to raise.

Mr Bull said that the report seemed quite straight forward and the Leisure Centre Manager should be congratulated.

Mrs Flores-Moore asked why the rates had increased. Mr Brew said that a review had taken place, and due to the conversion of the bowls store, the rateable value had increased.

Mr Buckley said that the income received to put towards the purchase of the table tennis table was not shown in Mr Brew's report.

Mrs Flores-Moore said that she preferred the graphs appended to the report showed results over a five year period.

Mr Brew will show graphs over a five year period in future.

Mr Brew said that he would need the two new Gym Instructors to go on a First Aid training course.

Mr Bull asked if the two Instructors had GP Referral qualifications. Mr Brew will ask if they are willing to do this. The Leisure Centre is taking GP Referral customers, provided that these are recommended by their physiotherapists.

Mr Brew reported that the majority of the archery grant funding had been approved, a sum of £4200. £2200 of this will be spent on equipment, the rest on training and marketing. Archery is still proving popular.

Mr Brew reported that a new class was in the process of being booked for the Centre, called Strictly Come Toning, although at present he was not quite sure what this entailed.

Mrs Flores-Moore asked if the Centre had been approached with queries about pole dancing classes. The Committee expressed surprise at this, but the Deputy Clerk confirmed that instructors had made enquiries about this type of class, which is a recognised fitness class, but a requirement was a room with a solid ceiling of a certain height, in order to support the telescopic poles, and none of the Parish halls fitted this description.

Mr Brew reported that two new Instructors have been appointed – Tom Utting and Tim Kidd.

Mrs Flores-Moore noted that the hall hire figures were down on target. The Deputy Clerk reminded Councillors that the target figure was quite high, and the Committee had recognised this when setting the budget.

Mr Brew said that due to staffing issues at the Parish Office, the final end of year figures were not yet finalised, but year to date hall hire income was £62145 against £66000.

Mrs Flores-Moore said that at the end of the year, the Centre should be just about on target, and Mr Brew agreed. Mrs Flores-Moore said that this had taken a lot of hard work by the staff and they should be congratulated.

Football Pitch Maintenance

Mr Brew reported that the quotes were now in for the refurbishment of the football pitch.

The specification supplied included the repair of the goal mouth, seeding the whole pitch and fertilising.

Four companies had been approached, but only two responded.

R.J. Jochimsen	£1,955 plus VAT
Active Grounds Maintenance	£1,630 plus VAT
Surrey Sports Turf Management	Did not respond
Kent County Council	Did not respond

Mr Bull said that in previous years, moving the goals had been discussed, in order to give the goal mouth areas more chance to recover. Mr Brew said that the sockets for the posts then impinged on the pitch the following year, so this had not been practical.

RESOLVED that the recommendation of giving the order for refurbishment of the pitch to Active Grounds Maintenance should be forwarded to the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting for approval.

Football Club Meeting

Mr Brew reported that he had held a meeting with the three clubs who currently use the pitches at the Leisure Centre, namely, Southwater Football Club, the Royals and Horsham Youth Club to discuss the rent they pay.

For the last financial year, the actual expenditure of c£2009, plus staffing costs (line painting, grass cutting, watering etc.) of c£1000, made the total cost of maintaining the pitches over £3000. When this is compared to the total income received from the three clubs of £2100, there was a shortfall which is the Leisure Centre is looking to address.

At the meeting, Mr Brew proposed either an increase in annual rent, or that the Leisure Centre hands over responsibility for maintenance to the clubs. The Royals and Horsham had indicated that they would accept the price increase, whilst Southwater would need to consult with its members.

Mr Apted said that the problem with volunteers maintaining the pitch was that this needed to be done properly and consistently. He asked who made the

decision whether the pitches were suitable to play on.

Mr Brew said that he made that decision, and he was happy to continue to do this. He looks at the pitch Friday afternoon/Saturday morning, then notified the clubs. If there was any doubt, the referee makes the final decision.

Mr Bull asked if the men's teams cause more wear and tear on the surface. Mr Brew said to some extent this is true.

The costs currently charged equate to those charged by the District Council in Horsham Park, although HDC had economies of scale with grass cutting etc., and the costs were subsidised by HDC.

Mr Buckley said that all the teams needed to agree the way forward.

At this point, Mrs Flores-Moore proposed the suspension of Standing Orders in order to allow members of the public to speak. This was seconded by Mr Apted and agreed by all.

Mr Hutchins, the Chairman of Southwater Football Club said the clubs being responsible for maintenance was not a new idea, but it was difficult to get volunteers to do the work. The gentleman who cut the grass for the club was elderly, and perhaps could not take on the extra work. The line marking man would need to be paid. The Club currently made no profit, and cannot afford a 20% increase in hire charges.

Mr Hutchins felt that the Club provided a service for the village, offering local football.

Mr Bull asked if the subs charged by the Club only covered the costs. He said that the Leisure Centre could not carry on at a loss, and suggested an increase in subs.

Mr Hutchins said that the seniors currently paid £6 per match, which did not cover the costs.

Mr Bull said that £6 for 90 minutes of entertainment and exercise equated to only two pints of beer.

Mr Hutchins agreed, but said that teenagers did not see it like that.

Mr Bull said that Mr Brew has suggested a compromise. Mr Buckley said that perhaps the rent increased could be phased in over, say, two years.

Mr Brew said that he was happy to discuss the matter further, as the meetings with the clubs were still on going. He suggested that perhaps some maintenance could be done by the clubs, and a lesser increase be charged in return.

Mr Bull said that he was concerned about volunteers, as often people were keen, then stopped coming.

Mrs Flores-Moore asked if Southwater Football Club had sought grant funding. Mr Hutchins said that there was a bid in with McDonalds at the

moment.

Mr Hutchins said that using the all weather pitch at Christ's Hospital School cost £50 per session, which was a large expense for the Club.

Mrs Flores-Moore said that the Leisure Centre was hoping to get a MUGA, which the Club could use. The Deputy Clerk asked Mr Hutchins if the Club would be prepared to write a letter of support for the MUGA application, which was currently being considered by the District Council, and he said that he would.

Mrs Flores-Moore said that the aim was to balance expenditure with income, and it was to be hoped that a solution palatable to all would be found.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

Section 106 Monies

The Deputy Clerk reported that she now has access directly to the Section 106 section of the District Council website, which enables her to access information more readily.

There are several potential payments in the pipeline, for use towards a variety of projects including the MUGA, compartmentalisation of the Leisure Centre loft, improvements to the changing rooms, and refurbishment of the skate park.

The Deputy Clerk is currently compiling a list of all such monies, and will track these to ensure that they are received as per this schedule.

Members present NOTED and APPROVED the reports provided by the Deputy Clerk and Leisure Centre Manager.

LC08/04/13 MAINTENANCE

It was felt that this agenda item had been covered in the Manager's Report.

LC09/04/13 HEALTH & SAFETY

Insurance Claim

The Deputy Clerk reported that an insurance claim has been made against the Leisure Centre for an injury which allegedly occurred during a gym induction session.

The Deputy Clerk has collated all the relevant documentation, and has passed this to Zurich, the Council's insurers for them to defend the claim.

Members noted this action

LC10/04/13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING –

The date of the next meeting will be 7.00 p.m., **Wednesday, 10th July 2013.**

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm.