

Minutes of a Meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held at the Oakwood Centre on Tuesday 17 January 2012 at 8 pm

Present: *Councillors K. Gilder (Chairman); T. Barker; J. Cheng; L. Hayward; S. Outen*

In attendance: *A. Bunn, Leisure Services Manager; D. Mander, Town Clerk
K. Murray, Service Support Manager*

Also present: *Councillor C. Lawley*

25. **APOLOGIES**

Councillors A. Downes, S. Rahmouni, W. Soane, M. Willson

26. **MINUTES OF THE LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE – 1 NOVEMBER 2011**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ that the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee of 1 November 2011 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

27. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor K. Gilder	Agenda item 7 Charges	Prejudicial Interest Councillor Gilder hires the pool at Bulmershe Leisure Centre on a regular basis to run octopush and snorkling clubs.
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28. **BUDGETARY CONTROL**

The Town Clerk presented Report No. LS 1/12. In response to a question the Leisure Services Manager explained that bookings for football on the hard surface area had been low and some areas of the surface were not usable. Tennis was still able to be played in the middle of the area. It was noted that the Leisure Services Manager would be providing information on swimming numbers over 3 years and the take up on the £1 a swim promotion to the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ to note Report No. LS 1/12.

29. **LEISURE CENTRES**

The Leisure Services Manager presented Report No. LS 2/12.

Active Celebration Olympic Week

It was noted that all the primary schools in Woodley had expressed an interest in taking part at events during the week and that one sponsor for the gala had been secured and another was being sought.

Swim School

The Leisure Service Manager reported that the income target for the year had now been exceeded and praised the work of the team delivering and developing the programme.

Playscheme

The playscheme at Woodford Park Leisure Centre averaged 18 children a day. The centre would continue to monitor take up of the scheme and could look at alternative ways of delivering this. The scheme continued to make a profit.

Fit as a Fiddle

Members were pleased to note the funding of £374 from Age Concern to pay the coaching costs for an eight week badminton course for people over 50. This had been pursued following a meeting of the Older Peoples Forum (WISE) attended by the Leisure Services Manager. Thirty one people turned up for the first session.

Under this item the Leisure Services Manager and Town Clerk reported on their meeting with the Neighbourhood Manager from Recyclebank, the company delivering the reward scheme for recycling waste. From 1 April households recycling waste would be able to register for the scheme and build up points for discounts at various shops and other venues. Members expressed their interest at taking part in the scheme and noted that proposals for the leisure centres to take part in the reward scheme would be brought to the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ to note Report No. 2/12.
- ◆ to approve the following Easter opening hours at the leisure centres:

	Bulmershe Leisure Centre	Woodford Park Leisure Centre
Good Friday 6 April	Closed	9.00 am – 5.00 pm
Saturday 7 April	Normal Hours	Normal Hours
Easter Sunday 8 April	Normal Hours	Normal Hours
Easter Monday 9 April	Closed	9.00 am – 5.00 pm

30. **PARKS AND BUILDINGS**

The Service Support Manager presented Report No. LS 3/12.

Works carried out at the leisure centres and other council buildings were noted and the Chairman reported good feedback on the improvement in lighting at the sports hall at Bulmershe Leisure Centre.

Wheeled Spot area

Members noted the reports received that showed that antisocial behaviour had reduced since the skate spot/wheeled sport area had opened. The Chairman updated Members on the trial to provide lighting from the JAC van on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Community Halls

At Coronation Hall the replaced ceiling tiles had made a noticeable improvement. Under this item the Service Support Manager also reported good feedback from Woodley Food Bank who had provided 25 food parcels over Christmas. Having the space at the hall had helped them meet this higher demand for their service.

Community Payback

Members were pleased to note the work being carried out at the allotment site as part of the Community Payback Scheme and noted the other projects planned. It was suggested that clearing areas for new plots could also be added to the list of possible projects.

Best Garden Competition

Members discussed this matter, which the Council had passed to the committee for consideration. Councillor Lawley spoke in favour of the proposal to run a competition in 2012 using the Jubilee celebrations as a theme and reported that he had met with the former Chairman and President of the Horticultural Society to thank them for their donation of the cup and to seek advice on a competition of this nature.

The Town Clerk confirmed that, with the help of former members of the Horticultural Society and seeking advice from other councils who had run this kind of competition, arrangements could be in place and the event publicised in time. It was suggested that sponsorship be sought and this would be followed up.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ to note Report No. LS 3/12.
- ◆ that a garden competition on the Jubilee theme be organised and take place in 2012.

31. **CHARGES 2012/13**

Councillor Gilder left the meeting for the duration of this item. Councillor Outen took the chair during the consideration of and voting on the charges.

Members considered the charges page by page with the Leisure Services Manager responding to questions. He had provided comparison costs against some charges and confirmed that, on investigation and from customer feedback, room and hall hire rates as increased were still competitive. On the matter of public swimming, where no increase was proposed, he reported that usage was down nationally and that by keeping prices at this year's rate he hoped to retain and attract more custom. The usage figures were regularly monitored by the Leisure Services Manager who would react to areas of concern by proposed changes or promotions to the committee.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ to recommend that the proposed charges for 2012/13 be approved.

32. **REVISED ESTIMATES 2011/12**

The Town Clerk presented Report No. LS 4/12

RESOLVED:

- ◆ to note Report No. LS 4/12.
- ◆ to recommend to Strategy and Resources Committee that Revised Budget Estimates for 2011/12 be approved.

33. **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012/13**

The Town Clerk presented Report No. LS 5/12.

Councillor Barker expressed his disappointment that no opportunity had been taken to reduce or keep costs at the same level. The Town Clerk confirmed that the budget process carried out by officers included careful assessment of running costs and that the figures were not inflated but reflected anticipated realistic costs. It was noted that fuel contracts would increase by 20% over the previous year and that the contracts for fuel had been agreed after quotes from two energy brokers.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ to note Report No. LS 5/12.
- ◆ to recommend the Budget Estimates for 2012/13 be approved.

34. **TOURNAMENTS WORKING PARY**

The Chairman presented Report No. LS 6/12 and it was

RESOLVED:

- ◆ that the new football tournament be called the “Woodley Diamond Jubilee Tournament” and be held in memory of Ian Dickens, a former manager of Woodford Park Leisure Centre.

35. **PUBLICITY AND WEB SITE**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ to publicise the following:
 - Olympic Week
 - Fit as a Fiddle Badminton Tournaments
 - Garden Competition

Meeting closed at 9.40 pm

Chairman