

Minutes of a Meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held at the Oakwood Centre on Tuesday 28 August 2012 at 8 pm

Present: *Councillors P. Challis (Chairman); A. Downes; B. Franklin; L. Hayward; S. Outen; S Rahmouni*

In attendance: *D. Mander, Town Clerk
E. Whitesmith, N. Rance, Sports Officers Woodford Park Leisure Centre*

11. **MINUTES OF THE LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE – 22 May 2012**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ that the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee of 22 May 2012 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

12. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.

13. **WOODLEY CRICKET CLUB**

The Chairman welcomed Laurie Figzal, Chairman, and Jawwad Raja, Youth Co-ordinator and Club Captain, to the meeting. Laurie Figzal gave a brief history of the club which dated back to the early 1900s. Woodford Park has been the club's home ground since 1964 and before that the Memorial Ground. The club has two teams in the Berkshire league, of which Woodley Cricket Club was a founder member. The club has worked hard to build up the membership from a low point some years ago. Jawwad Raja explained how with 5 teams and 60 children (including girls) the youth side is flourishing. There are many volunteers who support the teams in getting to matches, scoring and providing refreshments for the players. Both referred to the challenges the club faced; these related to the lack of training facilities, cost of hiring facilities because they don't have their own pavilion and losing gifted players to bigger clubs. The club is aiming to grow and build on its success so far and needed more facilities to be able to accommodate all who wanted to play cricket and to set up an under 9s team where there are different rules and regulations. The cricket club representatives reported that the wicket provided by the Council's Grounds Maintenance team was very good and that they had been working with the Leisure Services Manager to make small improvements and to obtain funding towards the cost of the new sightscreens.

Members suggested some sources of funding that the club could consider. The Chairman thanked Laurie Figzal and Jawwad Raja for coming to the meeting and confirmed that there was a real will within the Council to work with the club.

14. **BUDGETARY CONTROL**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ to note Report No. LS 14/12.

15. **LEISURE CENTRES**

The Sports Facility Managers from both Bulmershe and Woodford Park Leisure Centres presented Report No. LS 15/12.

General joint projects

Members were pleased to note the start of Parkrun in Woodford Park in October and the prepared press release for this. It was also noted that the Active Celebration week had been a great success with very positive feedback and that plans were underway for next year's event.

Racquet Attack

Figures for this and previous years' Racquet Attack promotion were tabled at the meeting and the Sports Facility Manager at Woodford Park Leisure Centre reported that this had been a good way of attracting 14-16 year olds to the centres. Members considered the proposal to continue this promotion during all school holidays and felt that this should be reviewed annually.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ that the £1 a person Racquet Attack promotion run at both centres during the school holidays up to September 2013, and that this be reviewed at the August/September 2013 meeting of the committee.

Healthy Habits

Members noted the launch of the new programme planned for the second week in September.

Bulmershe Leisure Centre

The Sports Facility Manager of Bulmershe Leisure Centre reported that 55 swimmers taking part in the first Swimathon at the centre had raised £2,431 for Marie Curie and Sport Relief.

A graph showing the take up of Swim for £1 from 2010 to the present was tabled; take up for this promotion had increased over this period, and had been at its highest during this year's summer holidays. In response to a question about the use of Recyclebank vouchers at the pool the Sports Facility Manager agreed to provide information on this to the next meeting.

Swim School enrolment for the third term of courses was good and appreciation of the Leisure Services Manager and his team for the way the Swim School had been developed were expressed.

Members were pleased to note the funding gained for Just Play and a Zumba class for Bulmershe Youth Centre's disability group.

Woodford Park Leisure Centre

The Sports Facility Manager reported that 20 teams had entered this year's Trem Trembath Kwik Cricket Tournament and a girls' tournament had been held for the first time. Woodley Cricket Club and members of Waingels College girls cricket team had provided umpires for the matches. Beechwood A team had won the boys tournament and Willowbank the girls.

Members noted new dance school bookings at the centre and that Woodley United Football Club's girls team would be added to Woodford Park's home teams.

The Sports Facility Manager reported that the planned Woodley Jubilee Football Tournament was cancelled because of low take up, probably because it had been scheduled for the last weekend of the holidays. For the teams that were interested the centre had rented pitches out for their use that day. The Sid Hopkins tournament arrangements would be considered by the Tournament Working Party at its next meeting.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ to note Report No. LS 15/12.

16. **PARKS AND BUILDINGS**

The Town Clerk presented Report No. LS 16/12 and drew Members' attention to the new play equipment that had been installed over the holidays at Woodford Park and the repainting of the white lines in the car park which had been a matter raised by respondents to a recent survey.

The garden competition had taken place in July and the winner, Mrs Walles, would be attending the next Council meeting to be presented with the Woodley Horticultural Society Memorial Cup.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ to note Report No. LS 16/12.

17. **REPORT ON WOODLEY TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB**

The Chairman reported on the meeting he had attended at the invitation of Mark Rozzier of Woodley Town Football Club. A range of views had been expressed about local provision for sports both for elite teams and the grassroots sports. The Chairman reported that he had suggested that these discussions be included within the Woodley Community Forum as part of a co-ordinated view and approach to services and facilities in Woodley.

18. **PUBLICITY AND WEB SITE**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ to publicise the following:
 - Parkrun
 - Active Celebration Week
 - Racquet Attack
 - Zumba
 - Woodford Park play area
 - Diamond Jubilee garden competition

Meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Chairman