

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held at Coronation Hall  
on Tuesday 6 November 2012 at 8 pm**

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**Present:** *Councillors P. Challis (Chairman); T. Barker; B. Franklin;  
L. Hayward; S. Outen; W. Soane*

**In attendance:** *A. Bunn, Leisure Services Manager; D. Mander, Town Clerk;  
K. Murray, Service Support Manager  
Mark Rozzier, Chairman Woodley Town Football Club*

**Apologies:** *Councillors A. Downes, S. Rahmouni*

19. **MINUTES OF THE LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE – 28 August 2012**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ that the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee of 28 August 2012 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

20. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.

21. **WOODLEY FOOTBALL CLUBS**

The Chairman welcomed Mark Rozzier to the meeting. Mark Rozzier explained that the Chairman of the football clubs in Woodley were meeting regularly and working with local schools' sports co-ordinators with the aim of developing a structured programme for the sport in Woodley. Councillor Outen attended these meetings on behalf of the Council. One of their objectives is to encourage 14-18 year olds to keep playing football. Another is the development of girls' football by establishing a pathway for them to take up and develop in the sport. There had been some good initiatives in the past and this group hoped to build on that with an organised, inclusive programme. Going forward the group would be trying to improve and build on the facilities already in Woodley so that players who are excelling can continue doing so in Woodley. Mark Rozzier hoped the Council would help the group's aims by letting other groups know what they are doing and by supporting its aim to have a centre stage pitch in Woodley that could have several uses and help keep elite players in Woodley, who would act as role models.

The Chairman thanked Mark Rozzier for coming to speak to the meeting and suggested he may wish to stay for the Leisure Services Manager's report which included a football project.

22. **BUDGETARY CONTROL**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to note Report No. LS 17/12.

23. **LEISURE CENTRES**

Before presenting his written report the Leisure Services Manager presented images of the Active Celebration week in June and explained the activities organised with partners at the local schools and clubs. Next year's event would take place from 20-24 May and would include athletics.

It was proposed and

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to thank the Leisure Services Manager and his team for their work in organising and running the Active Celebration Week in 2012.

**Racquet Attack promotion**

During October half term the promotion at Woodford Park Leisure Centre had attracted 31 young people.

**Healthy Habits and Park Run**

Members were pleased to note the successful launch of the Healthy Habits programme and the Park Run at Woodford Park.

**Christmas holiday**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ that both leisure centres will be closed from 24 December 2012 to 1 January 2013.

**Bulmershe Leisure Centre**

It was noted that the official re-launch of the former Westcoast Club as the Woodley All Stars would take place in December and Members would be invited.

The success of the Swim School in terms of both numbers and income generation was noted. The Leisure Services Manager explained the new arrangement of four terms with 11 week courses through the year.

The award of £577 for a 7 week badminton class for the Youth Centre's disability group was also noted.

**Woodford Park Leisure Centre**

Members noted the success of both the Sid Hopkins Football Tournament for schools and the No Strings Badminton sessions.

It was also noted that playscheme did not run over the October half term because of low take up. The centre would be looking at what provision would be appropriate in future and how that might be arranged.

**3G Artificial Grass Pitch**

Members considered the information provided in the report and the quote from Sports Solutions GB for a two stage project as a first step in planning for a 3G Artificial Grass Pitch:

- (1) produce plans, make an assessment of the proposed site, scope the project plan and costs and
- (2) set out a capital funding strategy, identify funding opportunities, update previous consultation, forecast costs and income and undertake planning consultation and make a planning application.

Members discussed the information and scope of the work described. It was noted that if such a project was to succeed and attract funding there would need to be clear project plans. Concern was expressed at the condition in the stage 2 work proposal regarding an unspecified percentage of grant funding achieved by the consultants be included in the fee and that this should not be agreed at this stage and that other quotes for this part of the work be sought. With this in mind it was proposed and

**RECOMMENDED TO THE STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE:**

- ◆ That the Council commission Sports Solutions GB to carry out Stage 1 of its proposal to provide consultancy services for a new Artificial Grass Pitch at Woodford Park Leisure Centre at the quoted cost of £2,400 excluding VAT.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to note Report No. LS 18/12.

24. **PARKS AND BUILDINGS**

The Service Support Manager presented Report No. LS 19/12.

In addition to the one item of vandalism reported since the last meeting the Service Support Manager informed Members of two incidents of fires set to rubbish outside each of the leisure centres and some damage in the Garden of Remembrance.

Members also received an update on the flooding problem at the Hadden Drive entrance to Woodford Park. Following further investigation the layout of the drainage system was now more clear and the cause of the flooding appeared to be the result of tree roots blocking and splitting a length of pipe. A contractor would be carrying out works to replace the pipe over the following weekend.

With regard to repairs to the sports hall roof at Woodford Park Leisure Centre there would also be works carried out to replace lengths of guttering.

Members were pleased to note the contribution from the Rotary Club of Loddon Vale towards the planting and tidying up of the nature garden, next to the Oakwood Centre.

Members noted the proposals regarding community orchards and that plans would be presented for consideration once potential sites were identified.

In response to a question about the status of the Western Avenue entrance to Woodford Park the Service Support Manager reported that finding a solution was not straightforward and that this was being investigated further.

Members noted the £10,000 allocation in the capital programme for improvement works at the entrance to Woodford Park Leisure Centre and considered the proposals set out in the report.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to note Report No. LS 19/12.
- ◆ that officers make arrangements for the Diamond Jubilee oak tree planting ceremonies.
- ◆ to approve the establishment of a Woodford Park Leisure Centre Entrance Improvements Working Party under the terms of reference attached.
- ◆ that Councillors Challis and Outen and one member to be notified by Councillor Haines to the Town Clerk be appointed to the working party.

25. **COACHING/LEISURE CENTRE APPRENTICESHIP**

Members considered the report and

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to introduce an apprentice scheme at the Council's leisure centres from April 2013 on the terms set out in Report No. LS 20/12.

26. **PLAY EQUIPMENT**

Members considered the proposal to use funds remaining from the playground section 106 monies (used for under 5s equipment at Woodford Park Leisure Centre playground) to install an outdoor table tennis table near the skate/wheeled sports spot.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to approve the allocation of £3,739 from Section 106 play equipment funds to install an outdoor table tennis table near the skate/wheeled sports spot.

27. **PUBLICITY AND WEB SITE**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to publicise the following:
  - Outdoor table tennis table
  - Apprenticeship newsletter
  - Badminton on Fridays – press release
  - Park Run
  - Christmas closure
  - Swim School – newsletter
  - Park entrance drainage and repairs
  - Diamond Jubilee planting

Meeting closed at 9.40 pm

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Chairman