

**Minutes of a meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held at the Oakwood Centre
on Tuesday 8 April 2014 at 8.00 pm**

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

Officers present: *D. Mander, Town Clerk; K. Murray, Service Support Manager;
L. Matthews, Committee Officer;
P. Martin, Sports Facility Manager – Bulmershe Leisure Centre*

Also present: *Mark Rozzier, Woodley Town Football Club, and Dave Pickup
1 member of the public*

44. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N. Cox and A. Downes.

45. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

46. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 January 2014**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ That the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting of 7 January 2014 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

47. **WOODLEY FOOTBALL CLUB**

Mark Rozzier, Woodley Town Football Club, and Dave Pickup, whose company sponsors Woodley United Football Club, were welcomed to the meeting.

The presenters explained the background to the 6 Woodley clubs, 85 teams in total, exploring a proposal that they join together to make one Woodley-wide club. One club would make better use of assets and resources and would have the aim of increasing participation in football for everyone in the community. The 3G pitch project at Woodford Park, the interest from the University in extending community on its land at Bulmershe and the need for better facilities to meet league requirements had emphasised the importance of considering a merger of the teams. Meetings were now underway with the Chair of Woodley United and some of the clubs to progress this proposal. The proposed club also had an experienced coach who was willing to oversee development for the club. The also presenters talked about what the club's purpose, vision and values could be and how these would be beneficial not only in football but also in the community.

There was discussion on the catchment area and an acknowledgement that players from outside the town would always be attracted to Woodley for numerous reasons but drifted away as they got older because there weren't the same opportunities in the town as elsewhere. The presenters confirmed that their aim would be to provide footballing opportunities for everyone, not just for the best. One club would increase the ability to develop players, rather than the competitive set up between clubs, and the intention would be to have missed ability teams up to 11 years, with tiering of teams after that.

A steering committee to oversee the merger process, including the club's formation, coaching, facilities, commercial matters and operations, had been established. The presenters agreed to take on board advice that it would be important to manage communications to keep everyone involved and up to date.

The Town Council, as a stakeholder, was invited to send a representative to the steering committee and the meeting noted that this would be an agenda item at the Annual meeting on 13 May and that in the meantime Councillor Outen would attend any meetings on the committee's behalf.

The Chairman thanked Mark Rozzier and Dave Pickup for coming to the meeting and making their presentation.

48. **BUDGETARY CONTROL**

The Town Clerk presented Report No. LS 7/14.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note Report No. LS 7/14.

49. **LEISURE CENTRES**

The Sports Facility Manager at Bulmershe Leisure Centre presented Report No. LS 8/14.

Healthy Habits

Members noted that the total number of Healthy Habits members was currently 679, a reduction of 64 since the last meeting of the Leisure Services Committee, and asked if the reason for that was known. The Town Clerk stated that she would ask the Leisure Services Manager to investigate this.

Pool Plant Operators Course

Members noted that eight officers from Bulmershe Leisure Centre, Woodford Park Leisure Centre and the Maintenance team had recently passed their Pool Plant Operators certificate.

Sports Development

Bulmershe Sports Club and Ladies Only Aquafit

Members were informed that further funding of £860 had been secured from Wokingham Borough Council to help with the running of the Bulmershe Sports Club on Saturday afternoons and the Ladies Only Aquafit class on Sunday evenings until the end of June.

Rounders England

Members were pleased to note that Rounders England were to continue their partnership with Woodley Town Council for a third year and had awarded a grant of £2,750 to enable the Rounders Development Plan for 2014/15 to be delivered.

Woodley Sports Week, 19 – 23 May 2014

Members noted the timetable for Sports Week and were informed that, for the first time, the Athletics would take place at Woodford Park this year.

Bulmershe Leisure Centre

Free swimming for over 60s

Members noted that just over 2,500 users have accessed the free swimming sessions since 1 October 2013, and that the scheme was due to end on 31 March 2014. The Town Council would receive a grant of £2,500 for being part of the scheme.

Free swimming for 16s and under

The Sports Facility Manager reported that Bulmershe Leisure Centre was offering free swimming for 16s and under during the Easter school holidays as part of the borough-wide scheme.

The Sports Facility Manager also reported that holiday camps in football, trampolining and swimming, and also a lifeguard course, were taking place at Bulmershe Leisure Centre.

BT Swimathon

Members were informed by the Sports Facility Manager that 90 swimmers had taken part in the Swimathon, but it was not yet known how much money had been raised for Sport Relief.

Woodford Park Leisure Centre

Healthy Habits Kids

Members were informed that the term-time sessions for football, cricket and badminton were well attended and the Centre was running badminton, football and Zumba courses during the Easter holidays.

Sid Hopkins Girls' Football Tournament

Members noted that a total of five teams had taken part in the tournament, with the winners being Beechwood School. All participants had been presented with a medal by the Town Mayor.

Badminton England and Bulmershe Gym Club

Members were informed that discussions had taken place, as had been agreed at the last meeting, and arrangements were being made to look at potential joint development opportunities. In reply to a request from Councillor Challis for a full report on developments, the Town Clerk replied that, to date, only the initial meeting had been held and that possible funding opportunities were being investigated.

3G Football Pitch – Woodford Park Leisure Centre

Members noted that Sports Solutions had started the initial stage of the grant funding process and hoped to submit the application in June. All six football Clubs in Woodley had confirmed their commitment to the 3G pitch project and would form a steering group to help with the continuing application process.

Bulmershe Leisure Centre - lease

Under this item reference was made to the decision of the Strategy and Resources Committee at the extraordinary meeting on 26 March 2014 to move forward with discussions on the possible early surrender of the lease on Bulmershe Leisure Centre and that this had not been reported to the Leisure Services Committee. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Strategy and Resources Committee had agreed that negotiations be undertaken on the terms of such a surrender and that three officers had been delegated to conduct the negotiations. No meetings had yet taken place.

A proposal by Councillor Challis, seconded by Councillor Rahmouni, was then discussed and it was

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To recommend to the Town Council that members of the Leisure Services Committee be fully involved in discussions about the future of Bulmershe Leisure Centre and Woodford Park Leisure Centre, in line with their powers and duties as described in Woodley Town Council's Standing Orders.

Voting: For: 4 Against: 1

RESOLVED

- ◆ To note Report No. LS 8/14

50. **PARKS AND BUILDINGS**

The Service Support Manager presented Report No. LS 9/14.

Vandalism

The Service Support Manager informed Members that recent incidents of vandalism to the dog bin at the rear of Woodford Park Leisure Centre were being investigated by the police.

Woodford Park Leisure Centre

The Service Support Manager reported that automatic front doors and new signage had been installed at Woodford Park Leisure Centre. These were key items on the Woodford Park Leisure Centre Entrance Improvements Working Party project list.

The Service Support Manager also reported that the committee rooms had been refurbished by the Maintenance team, but that the replacement of the room partitions in the function room had been delayed by the contractor and would take place that week.

Members noted that the paddling pool was to be cleaned in preparation for opening at Easter, if the weather allowed, and that the filter system had been modified.

Woodford Park

Members were informed by the Service Support Manager that drainage works had been carried out to reduce surface water flooding near the Maintenance building and the Maintenance building had been cleaned and decorated.

Civic Space

The Service Support Manager reported that the war memorial had been ordered and the landscape architect was drawing up a list of possible tenderers for the civic space. Members noted that Wokingham Borough Council had informed the Service Support Manager that full planning permission would be required for the war memorial, rather than the permitted development certificate, which they had previously advised.

Malone Park

Members were informed by the Service Support Manager that following the public consultation, to which 188 responses had been received, the new play equipment would be installed at the end of April. Following a remark by Councillor Challis that he would have expected a report to have been presented to the Committee regarding the chosen equipment, the Service Support Manager replied that images of the equipment were on the Town Council website with the consultation information and that he would bring this back to the committee and circulate the information to all councillors in the meantime.

Community Halls

The Service Support Manager reported that Chapel Hall was currently being redecorated and that the standard of the hall had improved since the new caretaker had been appointed, resulting in positive comments from the users.

Community Orchard

Members noted that the community orchard on the Memorial Ground had been planted on 1 March, following consultation of the residents in Halstead Close, who were supportive of the proposals.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note Report No LS 9/14.

51. **ENTRANCE INTO WOODFORD PARK FROM WESTERN AVENUE**

Members noted that further legal advice had been sought on this matter regarding the action that the Council could take, as the land owner was unknown. The advice had not yet been received and this would be followed up.

52. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The Chairman invited the committee to suggest future items for consideration by the committee.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ That the following be considered as future committee items:
 - The future of leisure centres in Woodley.
 - Progress of discussions with Badminton England and Bulmershe Gym Club.

53. **PUBLICITY AND WEBSITE**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To publicise Sports Week on the Town Council website.

Before closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked all committee members for their time and involvement over the year and hoped that their work had been of benefit to the town.

The meeting closed at 9:20 pm
