

**Minutes of a meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held at the Oakwood Centre
on Tuesday 3 November 2015 at 8.00 pm**

Present: *Councillors W. Soane (Chairman); T. Barker; B. Franklin; K. Gilder;
M. Green; S. Rahmouni; D. Stares; M. Willson*

Officers present: *K. Murray, Deputy Town Clerk; E. Whitesmith, Leisure Services Manager;
L. Matthews, Committee Officer*

Also present: *Councillor R. Dolinski*

24. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received.

25. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

26. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2015**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ That the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting of 1 September 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

27. **BUDGETARY CONTROL**

The Deputy Town Clerk presented Report No. LS 19/15.

In reply to a question on the expenditure on Capital and Projects, which was shown in the report as zero, the Deputy Town Clerk said that he would investigate this figure and report back to Members.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note Report No. LS 19/15.

28. **WOODFORD PARK LEISURE CENTRE, SPORTS DEVELOPMENT AND ACTIVITIES**

The Leisure Services Manager presented Report No. LS 20/15.

Members were informed that the possibility of tennis players being able to use other courts in Woodley had been investigated and The Bulmershe School had agreed to allow members of the public to use its tennis courts, but this would only be possible outside of school hours in order to comply with the school's safeguarding regulations. An approach had also been made to Wainglells School. Councillor Gilder noted that there were some tennis courts available to hire in Bearwood Road and asked for that information to be passed to the tennis players.

The Leisure Services Manager reported that once again Woodford Park had hosted the annual Wokingham Schools Football Tournament in October and he was working with the School Games Organiser with the aim of Woodford Park continuing to be the venue for this event in future years. Woodford Park Leisure Centre had also been chosen to host the first Wokingham Schools Badminton Tournament in January 2016 and had received funding to set up and continue to run the tournament on an annual basis.

The Leisure Services Manager updated Members on the progress of arrangements for the Woodley 10km Road Race. Members were pleased to note that £1 from each entry would be contributed to the Mayor's charity.

Members were also informed of the success of the October half-term activities at Woodford Park Leisure Centre, the proposals to run "drop and shop" sessions prior to the Christmas holidays, the funding that had been received to run satellite badminton clubs at secondary schools across Wokingham and the progress that had been made towards the submission to run a football scholarship programme from September 2016.

Members were asked to approve the proposal to close Woodford Park Leisure Centre during the Christmas holiday period from Thursday 24 December 2015 to 1 January 2016, to allow maintenance works to be carried out and give the staff at the centre an opportunity for a break at a time of year when usage was low.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note Report No. LS 20/15.
- ◆ To approve the proposed Christmas closure at Woodford Park Leisure Centre.

29. **PARKS AND BUILDINGS**

The Deputy Town Clerk presented Report No. LS 21/15.

Members were informed that Coronation Hall had been broken into overnight on 27 September, causing damage valued at approximately £150. Nothing appeared to have been stolen and repairs were carried out by the Maintenance Team. The police had attended the site the day after the break-in.

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the Inn on the Park had closed for business on Saturday 24 October and that the stock, furniture, fixtures and fittings had been removed from the pub and cellar by LT Pub Leasing and the flat had been vacated. There was some discussion about the possible future use of the pub and flat and the Deputy Town Clerk explained that the Woodford Park Leisure Centre Regeneration Task and Finish Group was considering the options for refurbishment. Members noted that the terms and conditions for the hire of the function room at the leisure centre had been amended to allow hirers to arrange for a professional bar company to service their event, if required.

The Deputy Town Clerk updated Members on the progress of the 3G pitch project, advising that the contractor had been appointed and had submitted the necessary revised plans for approval by the planning authority. It was anticipated that work would start on site on 16 November, with a completion date of 22 February 2016, however in reply to a question the Deputy Town Clerk noted that the start date would be delayed if the planning response was not received by that date and the length of the construction programme could be affected by the weather. He informed Members that the Leisure Services Manager was in touch with the potential users of the pitch on a regular basis to keep them updated on progress.

Members were disappointed to hear that an item of outdoor gym equipment had been removed from Woodford Park as it was damaged and was beyond repair. The equipment had only been in place for six years and Members asked the Deputy Town Clerk to contact the supplier to investigate why it had failed after such a short time.

In addition Members were informed that the heating boilers and associated pipework had been replaced at Woodford Park Leisure Centre and a whole building water softener had been installed, a meeting with the Parkrun organisers would take place shortly to agree the

type and locations of signage for the run and car parking problems at Coronation Hall were being investigated by the Venues Manager and the Caretaker.

In reply to a question the Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that there had been no progress in finding out who owned the land at the entrance to Woodford Park from Western Avenue and Town Council staff were continuing to make temporary repairs to the road surface. During construction of the 3G pitch the contractor would need to use this entrance and would repair any damage caused by the construction traffic.

RESOLVED

- ◆ To note Report No. LS 21/15.

30. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

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

RESOLVED:

- ◆ That the following be included as future agenda items:
 - The recommendations from the Woodford Park Leisure Centre Regeneration Task and Finish Group.
 - Proposals for improvements to the lake in Woodford Park
 - Updates on the 3G pitch project.

31. **PUBLICITY AND WEBSITE**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To publicise the following:
 - The Woodley 10km Road Race – the route to be shown on the website.
 - The Wokingham Schools Badminton Tournament being hosted at Woodford Park Leisure Centre.

The meeting closed at 8:50 pm
