

**Minutes of a meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held at the Oakwood Centre
on Tuesday 27 May 2014 at 8.00 pm**

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

Officers present: *D. Mander, Town Clerk; K. Murray, Service Support Manager;
A. Bunn, Leisure Services Manager; L. Matthews, Committee Officer;*

Also present: *Donna Kirkpatrick and Trina Farrance, Bulmershe Gym Club
Councillor K. Baker*

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Downes and W. Soane.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 APRIL 2014**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ That the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting of 8 April 2014 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. **BULMERSHE GYM CLUB**

Donna Kirkpatrick and Trina Farrance, from Bulmershe Gym Club, were welcomed to the meeting.

The presenters explained that the gymnastics club had been based in Woodley for over 40 years and provided gym classes for all ages and abilities, from pre-school to adult recreational classes and elite squads competing at regional, national and international level. The club currently operated from a purpose built training facility in the grounds of Bulmershe School, but required more space were now running satellite classes at Woodford Park Leisure Centre.

There was currently a waiting list of more than 400 for children's classes, with children waiting over a year for places to become available and this situation could be alleviated if extra facilities could be provided. At an elite level, 37 members of the club were currently in the GB aerobic gymnastics squad, including national champions and two world silver medallists, and these gymnasts were training on a floor that was not suitable for their requirements. An extra training facility could provide a floor suitable for aerobic gymnastics. The club had funding, with a committed endorsement from British Gymnastics and were looking to work in partnership with another facility. The presenters talked about the club's plans to further their links with the local community and possible partnerships that had been identified.

Members questioned the presenters about the club's membership and how to balance the demands of the elite squad with community use. The presenters informed members that the club would be interested in any space that could be made available and was keen to be involved in the development of a facility, and had funding to make this possible.

The Chairman thanked Donna Kirkpatrick and Trina Farrance for coming to the meeting and making their presentation.

5. **BUDGETARY CONTROL**

- a) The Town Clerk presented Report No. LS 10/14.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note Report No. LS 10/14.

- b) The Town Clerk presented Report No. LS 11/14, the draft 2013/14 year end expenditure and income accounts. Members noted that the income for the year was greater than had been estimated in the budget, with the income from the football pitches being 10% higher than anticipated, and thanked officers for the very good results.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note Report No. LS 11/14.

6. **LEISURE CENTRES**

The Leisure Services Manager presented Report No. LS 12/14.

Healthy Habits

Members were pleased to note that the number of Healthy Habits members had increased to 843.

August Bank Holiday

Members were asked to approve the proposed opening hours at the leisure centres for the August bank holiday, as follows:

Date: 25 August

Bulmershe Leisure Centre: Closed

Woodford Park Leisure Centre: 9am – 5pm

Sports Development

Cardiac Rehabilitation

The Leisure Services Manager reported that Wokingham Borough Council had finally found an instructor to lead the cardiac rehabilitation sessions at Woodford Park Leisure Centre, and these would commence on 4 June. Due to high demand there would be two sessions each week. When asked if there was a defibrillator on site, the Leisure Services Manager explained that the team running the cardiac sessions would bring a defibrillator with them.

Woodley Sports Week, 19 – 23 May 2014

The Leisure Services Manager reported that all sessions at Sports Week had been well attended and approximately 2,700 children had taken part. Many schools had commented that this year had been better than last year. Councillor Franklin had attended many of the sessions in his role as Town Mayor and reported that all the events had been very well organised, and he congratulated the Leisure Services Manager and his team.

Bulmershe Leisure Centre

Members were pleased to note that the free swimming for 16s and under would be operating at Bulmershe Leisure Centre again during the school summer holidays, and that the first term of Swim School for the year had been very successful, with an increase in income of £6,000 compared with the previous year's figure at this point.

Woodford Park Leisure Centre

New Bookings

The Leisure Services Manager informed Members that Bulmershe Gym Club had recently transferred their booking from Bulmershe to Woodford Park Leisure Centre and would be training there two evenings a week. In reply to a question the Leisure Services Manager confirmed that the gym club bookings had not displaced any other bookings. Discussions were also underway with three or four other hirers at Bulmershe who were interested in transferring to Woodford Park.

Berkshire Lawn Tennis Association

Members were informed that Berkshire Lawn Tennis Association would be leaving their offices at Woodford Park at the beginning of June to move to smaller premises, due to the reorganisation of the Lawn Tennis Association. Discussions were underway with Optalis, who were keen to move from their current base at Bulmershe and into the space vacated by Berkshire Lawn Tennis Association.

Family Bike Rides

In reply to a question the Leisure Services Manager confirmed that he was hoping to encourage people to travel to the start of the bike rides on their bikes as car parking was difficult.

3G Football Pitch – Woodford Park Leisure Centre

The Leisure Services Manager updated Members on the progress of the 3G artificial grass football pitch project and reported that all was proceeding according to plan. Wokingham Borough Council had responded to the pre-application advice request and nothing had emerged that was not already being considered.

Bulmershe Gym Club and Berkshire Badminton Association

The Leisure Services Manager informed Members that Bulmershe Gym Club and Berkshire Badminton Association both had funds to invest in new training facilities and were keen to work with the Town Council to investigate the possibility of building an extension at Woodford Park Leisure Centre. Albatross Diving Club, who used Bulmershe Leisure Centre as their dry land training centre, also had funds to invest and had asked to be kept informed of any future building project.

The Leisure Services Manager had met with Alliance Leisure and Createability to discuss the possibility of providing a new facility for these clubs, and had asked them to investigate the costs involved and possible income generation ideas. It was agreed to invite the company to report on their findings at the next meeting.

RESOLVED

- ◆ To note Report No. LS 8/14.
- ◆ To approve the proposed bank holiday hours.

7. PARKS AND BUILDINGS

The Service Support Manager presented Report No. LS 13/14.

Vandalism

Members noted that the metalwork to the zip wire at Woodford Park Leisure Centre had recently been damaged and the door at Chapel Hall had been damaged during a break-in.

Woodford Park Leisure Centre

The Service Support Manager reported that the room partitions in the function room had been replaced and the paddling pool had been cleaned and serviced in preparation for the

summer. He also reported on the work that had been undertaken as part of the Woodford Park Leisure Centre Entrance Improvements project.

Bulmershe Leisure Centre

Members were informed that the sand filters were scheduled for replacement in the following weeks, but that the work was not expected to affect the operation of the pool.

Woodford Park

The Service Support Manager informed Members that the wild flower beds had been prepared and planted around the park and that the large sycamore tree that had been in poor condition had been removed. Further tree works would be carried out in the following weeks, including the removal of several dead trees and some that were damaged during storms earlier in the year.

Civic Space

The Service Support Manager reported that planning permission for the project was still awaited, but that the tenders were due to be returned the following day and it was hoped that work could begin the week after Carnival.

Malone Park

Members were informed by the Service Support Manager that installation of the new play equipment had commenced that week.

Woodley Garden Competition 2014

The Service Support Manager reported that advertising flyers were currently being distributed and the closing date for entries would be Friday 11 July.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note Report No LS 13/14.

8. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Members reviewed the draft Powers and Duties of the Leisure Services Committee document and made the following amendments:

- i. Point 1 should read: "To provide, manage and promote..." instead of "To manage and promote..."
- ii. Point 3 should read: "To manage and promote the use of Bulmershe Leisure Centre and Woodford Park Leisure Centre by the general public."
- iii. Point 13 should read: "To co-operate and liaise with other local authorities and organisations..." instead of "To co-operate and liaise with other bodies and organisations..."
- iv. Point 16 should read: "To seek grant or other funding towards the costs of new developments or activities within the Committee's remit and recommend to the Strategy and Resources Committee where appropriate."

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To recommend that the amended draft Powers and Duties of the Leisure Services Committee document be adopted.

9. 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 agenda items:
 - An update on the future of Bulmershe Gym Club be included in the Leisure Service Manager's report for every meeting.
 - The costed options for building an extension at Woodford Park Leisure Centre to provide new training facilities for Bulmershe Gym Club, Berkshire Badminton Association and Albatross Diving Club be included as a separate item in the next agenda.

10. **PUBLICITY AND WEBSITE**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To post photographs from Sports Week on the Town Council website.
- ◆ To advertise any future events on the Town Council website.

11. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted in relation to legal matters, it was advisable in the public interest that the public and press were temporarily excluded and asked to withdraw for the following agenda item.

12. **BULMERSHE LEISURE CENTRE**

The Town Clerk presented a confidential update on negotiations on the terms of an early surrender of the lease on Bulmershe Leisure Centre.

The meeting closed at 9:25 pm
