

**Minutes of a meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held at the Oakwood Centre
on Tuesday 5 June 2018 at 8:00 pm**

Present: *Councillors W. Soane (Chairman); T. Barker; D. Bragg; J.J. Ellis; D. Stares*

Officers present: *D. Mander, Town Clerk; K. Murray, Deputy Town Clerk;
E. Whitesmith, Leisure Services Manager; L. Matthews, Committee Officer
A. Ransley, PR/Marketing Co-ordinator*

Also present: *Councillor M. Willson
Sam Milligan, Just Around the Corner charity*

Before the start of the meeting, the Chairman welcomed the two newly elected Members, Councillor Bragg and Councillor Ellis, to the Committee.

The new PR/Marketing Co-ordinator, who had started in post that day, was also welcomed to the meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S. Rahmouni.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 APRIL 2018**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ That the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting of 10 April 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. **JUST AROUND THE CORNER (JAC)**

Sam Milligan, Just Around the Corner charity (JAC), was welcomed to the meeting and presented the JAC report.

Sam Milligan reported that the JAC team continued to be well received by young people in Woodley and the atmosphere in the town was generally very good. JAC continued to work with the schools in Woodley and had received referrals from primary and secondary schools.

Sam Milligan was very pleased to inform Members that JAC had been chosen as one of the nominated charities for Woodley Carnival in 2018.

In reply to a question about the plans for the Loddon Mead site, Sam Milligan informed Members that a decision had been made to appoint a planning consultant to obtain planning permission for the siting of a container café on the Council's land at Loddon Mead. He also confirmed that there would only be pedestrian access for users of the site.

5. **COMMUNITY YOUTH PARTNERSHIP**

Sam Milligan presented Report No. LS 12/18 of the Community Youth Partnership meeting held on 30 May 2018. He explained that, following the success of the recent conference on anxiety in young people and the feedback received from parents, the Partnership proposed to facilitate further work to support parents and young people by the development of parent self-help groups and parenting courses. The Partnership had recommended that £2,000 be allocated from the Youth Projects budget for this purpose and if this was agreed by the Committee discussions would be held with ARC and the Create Hope charity to establish costs and arrange an initial meeting with people interested in supporting the project.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note Report No. LS 12/18.
- ◆ To allocate £2,000 from the Youth Projects budget to enable further work to be undertaken to support parents and young people by developing parent self-help groups and running parenting courses.

The Chairman thanked Sam Milligan for coming to the meeting.

6. **BUDGETARY CONTROL**

The Town Clerk presented Report No. LS 13/18 and pointed out that the note indicating that some of the income at Woodford Park Leisure Centre had come from tennis was an error.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note Report No. LS 13/18.

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

The Leisure Services Manager presented Report No. LS 14/18 and reported on the success of the 2018 Woodley Schools Sports Week, with particular highlights being the opening ceremony dance festival, attended by an estimated 200 spectators, and the Kwik Cricket tournament. It was estimated that 1,350 children took part during the week of activities, which was a reduction on previous years due to the closure of Bulmershe Leisure Centre. The closure of Bulmershe Leisure Centre had also resulted in the swimming gala being relocated to Bluecoat School and, despite the additional logistical and staffing problems this had caused, the event had been a success.

The Leisure Services Manager informed Members that, following the heavy usage of the 3G pitch, it had been necessary to purchase new goal nets, and although the goal posts were still in good condition, the wheels attached to the goalposts were in urgent need of repair. Members were of the opinion that the wheels should not need replacing yet and asked that the warranty be investigated and that replacements be requested from the manufacturer free of charge.

Members noted that the new liner had been installed to the padding pool and the pool was now open for public use. Members were concerned to learn that increasingly low water pressure was likely to result in problems with refilling the pool after heavy usage on very hot days and suggested that Thames Water should be asked to carry out a pressure test to make sure that minimum standards were being met.

Members were pleased to note that the NERF activities continued to do well and that the Wokingham Schools Orienteering Competition had once again been successfully held in Woodford Park in May.

The Leisure Services Manager informed Members that he had received a small number of requests for free use of the gym by young athletes training for high level competitions in

their chosen sports. The Committee was asked to consider implementing a free pass system at the gym for nationally recognised sports people.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note Report No. LS 14/18.
- ◆ That a detailed proposal for free use of the Gym on the Park by nationally recognised sports people be submitted for consideration by the Committee at the next meeting.

8. **PARKS AND BUILDINGS**

The Deputy Town Clerk presented Report No. LS 15/18 and reported that the work to install new steel joists and replace the flat roofing at Woodford Park Leisure Centre had been completed and a new suspended ceiling and lighting had been installed in the reception area. He informed Members that there was currently no hot water at the leisure centre as the heat exchanger had broken down. A new servicing company would be working at the leisure centre the following week to solve the scaling problem that had caused the break-down and it was hoped that hot water would be available again by the end of that week.

Members noted that Woodley Pre-School was awaiting an Ofsted inspection of its new premises, as this was necessary before they could start operating from the new building. The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the Town Council was installing a path from the overflow car park in Woodford Park to the school building.

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that that the Friends of Woodford Park had been working with volunteers from SAGE to thin out the copse area near the Garden of Remembrance and to dig out and plant shrub beds in the Rotary Garden. Members received a report on improvements that had been carried out in Woodford Park during the past year and were notified that new signage would be erected prior to the visit of the Green Flag judges on 8 June.

Members were informed that the application to the Landfill Communities Trust for £50,000 towards the cost of the lake project had been unsuccessful, due to the large number of competing projects for limited available funding. It would therefore be proposed that the Council consider including an additional £50,000 as part of a loan application to the Public Works Loan Board at its next meeting.

Members also received an update on matters relating to the allotments and noted that the new inclusive play area in the town centre was complete and being well used, and that a section of the flooring to the Centre Stage had been vandalised and had been temporarily repaired by the maintenance team while the materials necessary for a permanent repair were awaited. In reply to a question, the Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that the possibility of installing cctv in the town centre had already been considered by the WTCMI but that the logistics of operating, managing and monitoring the cameras had proved problematic. It was suggested that the Council could engage with the local shopkeepers and ask them to report unruly behaviour on the Centre Stage.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note Report LS 15/18.

9. **TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC TOILET UPDATE**

The Town Clerk informed Members that the semi-automatic public toilet was under construction and she was awaiting notification of the delivery date. Danfo would then prepare the site in time for the delivery.

10. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no suggestions for future agenda items.

11. **PUBLICITY AND WEBSITE**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To publicise the following:
 - The Kwik Cricket tournament during School Sports Week
 - Information about the Green Flag application and the management plans for Woodford Park

12. **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted in relation to commercial 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.

13. **WOODFORD PARK LEISURE CENTRE REGENERATION TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

Members noted the information presented in Report No. SR 16/18, which had already been considered and approved by the Strategy and Resources Committee and by Council.

The meeting closed at 9:05 pm
