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WIRKSWORTH LEISURE CENTRE COMMUNITY GROUP

Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 28 July 2016 at the Community Room, Wirksworth Leisure Centre at 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Mike Ratcliffe - in the Chair

Councillor Joanne Wild, Councillor Steve Maskrey (Wirksworth Town Council), Messrs John Thompson, Malcolm Kelly, Rod Leach and Ms Gaye Smedley

Sandra Lamb (Hon Secretary), Dave Turvey (Active Communities Officer), Rob Wilkes (Community Development and Wellbeing Officer), Claire Mosley (Leisure Management) and Christine Laver (Democratic Services Team Leader)

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE 2016-2017 CIVIC YEAR

It was moved by Mr John Thompson, seconded by Cllr Steve Maskrey and

AGREED (Unanimously) That Councillor Mike Ratcliffe be elected Chairman of the Wirksworth Leisure Centre Community Group until the next annual meeting of the Council.

APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN FOR THE 2016-2017 CIVIC YEAR

It was moved by Councillor Mike Ratcliffe, seconded by Cllr Steve Maskrey and

AGREED (Unanimously) That Mr John Thompson be appointed Vice Chairman of the Wirksworth Leisure Centre Community Group until the next annual meeting of the Council.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMUNITY GROUP

Three applications had been received in response to an advertisement for Leisure Centre users who were willing to serve as members of the Community Group. Two of the three places were currently vacant and the applicants had been invited to submit brief written statements, or make aural presentations to the Committee, setting out why they would like to become members and what they could offer to the group.

Two applicants had provided statements but the third had decided to withdraw because of an unpredictable working pattern.

It was noted that the Group had the option to invite user representatives to attend meetings on an ad hoc basis if it was felt that their input would be useful in relation to the matters under discussion.

It was **AGREED**

1. That Mr Rod Leach be reappointed as a representative of Leisure Centre users until the next annual meeting of the Council
2. That Mr Jerry Allen and Ms Gaye Smedley be appointed as representatives of Leisure Centre users until the next annual meeting of the Council.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

AGREED That the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Group held on 2 February 2016 be approved as a correct record.

UPDATE ON THE LEISURE SERVICES AND CENTRES REVIEW

The Community Development and Wellbeing Officer noted that those present were already conversant with Phase one of the Review and the two options that had been selected by Members to go forward for detailed examination.

FMG Consulting has, again, been appointed to assess the feasibility of these options based on up to date performance figures. They would then compile a report to be presented to Members before the end of the year. If Council agreed to go forward with one of the options there would then be a period of public consultation.

The Group expressed concern that the consultant's initial report had not been published. It was explained that the report contained information that would be out of date if it were to be published after consideration by Council Members. Sandra Lamb confirmed that the report only presented the findings of the consultants and did not seek to influence the Members' choice of options in any way.

It was also noted that a special meeting of the Community Group could be called following the consideration of the Phase 2 report by Council Members.

Concerns were also expressed about the lack of a current Joint Use Agreement with the school. Sandra Lamb explained that this could not be renewed until problems that had arisen in relation to the lease were resolved but confirmed that a letter from the Council's Solicitor did allow for "business as usual" in the meantime.

The Active Communities Officer responded to queries about the amount of capital funding allocated to Ashbourne Leisure Centre. He explained that the bulk of this was allocated to repair works following damage to the centre.

AGREED

1. That the update be noted.
2. That special meetings of the Group be arranged as necessary and dependent upon the progress of the Leisure Review.

LEISURE SERVICES FEES – COMPARISON 2015/16 AND 2016/17

Confirmation of the price changes, considered at the Group's previous meeting, was provided. It was suggested that the Group may wish to look at fees at the October meeting when it would be possible for comments and suggestions to be fed into the annual review of fees prior to their presentation to Members for approval.

It was noted that the revised climbing wall charges had been particularly welcomed by users.

- AGREED**
1. That the revised pricing structure be noted and welcomed.
 2. That there was a need to publicise the changes to make potential users aware of what was available.

USAGE STATISTICS

Claire Mosley reported on usage statistics. New memberships and fitness classes were generally below target but it was felt that the new Sales and Retention Manager was beginning to have an impact but there was a climate of rumour and uncertainty amongst users that did not foster commitment.

Dave Turvey noted that additional classes were now being added, following the appointment of new staff, and these were being well received and supported.

The Member representatives felt that the new classes needed to be advertised more widely and that a lack, or inadequacy, of the basic equipment needed was a disincentive in some cases.

- It was **AGREED**
1. That the usage statistics be noted.
 2. That the mechanism for reporting and ordering basic equipment would be reviewed.
 3. That the classes would be promoted more widely.

FINANCIAL OUTTURN

The Group had been provided with copies of the year end ledger for all the District Council's leisure centres and a breakdown of income for Wirksworth Leisure Centre over the past three years. Rod Leach had identified discrepancies between these and those supplied previously for the period up to December of the same financial year. He requested that a commentary be provided to explain the points identified on a sheet that he circulated at the meeting.

Sandra Lamb agreed that an explanation of the points raised would be provided but noted that the timing of that would be dependent upon the workload of the accountancy section.

- It was **AGREED**
1. That the report be noted
 2. That a response to the points raised by Mr Leach would be provided to the Group.

SPORTS HALL STAFFING AND MAINTENANCE

Improvements to staffing at Wirksworth included the appointment of a new Head Attendant and two fitness instructors. These appointments had enabled the range of fitness classes to be extended.

It was still planned to tender for a contract for new gym equipment, beginning in January 2017, that should result in newer and better maintained equipment being available at Wirksworth.

A survey of the sports hall floor was to be undertaken by the District Council's Estates Department.

- AGREED**
1. That the update be noted.
 2. That the Actives Communities Officer would contact estates to check on progress with the survey to the sports hall floor.

UPDATE FROM SCHOOL

Further to his written report the Headteacher noted that the school continued to use the Leisure Centre and outdoor facilities every day despite having lost funding for being a specialist sports college.

Mr Kelly reiterated his request for a renewal of the Joint Use Agreement until 2017.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

It was **AGREED**

That meeting would be held on the following dates

27 October 2016

26 January 2017

with additional meetings to be arranged as required.

The following items were put forward for discussion at the next, scheduled meeting

- Fees and charges
- Marketing
- Operational issues

Meeting closed 7.50pm