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WIRKSWORTH LEISURE CENTRE COMMUNITY GROUP

Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 09 November 2017 in Room E1, English Block, Anthony Gell Community School, Wirksworth DE4 4DX at 6:00pm.

PRESENT Councillor Mike Ratcliffe - in the Chair

Councillor Jo Wild (DDDC), Councillor Steve Maskrey (Wirksworth Town Council), Mr Malcolm Kelly (Headmaster – Anthony Gell School), Mr John Thompson (Chairman – Anthony Gell School Foundation), Mr Rod Leach & Ms Gaye Smedley (Representatives – Leisure Centre Users),

Dave Turvey (Active Communities Officer), Claire Mosley (Leisure Centre Manager) and Simon Johnson (Democratic & Electoral Services Assistant)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Sandra Lamb.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **AGREED**

That the Minutes of the Wirksworth Leisure Centre Community Group meeting held on 11 July 2017 be approved as a correct record.

3 FINANCIAL UPDATE ON THE DISTRICT COUNCIL LEISURE CENTRES

The Leisure Centre Manager Claire Mosley gave a brief overview of the budgets for the four Leisure Centres and Sports Development

Rod Leach, raised a query over the Account Code 7616 and spending of £23,904 (up to 30/09/2017) in the Wirksworth Leisure Centre budget Financial Year 2017/18 for 'Community Development Administration.' No answer could be given during the meeting but the Leisure Centre Manager would investigate and inform the Group at a later date.

It was **AGREED**

1. That the budgets and financial data are noted.

2. That the Active Communities Officer would investigate and inform the Group of the reason for allocation of spending of £23,904 for 'Community Development Administration.'

4 USAGE STATISTICS

The Leisure Centre Manager gave a brief overview on the usage statistics, highlighting that overall usage of the Main Sports Hall had decreased despite block bookings from clubs. However, the appointment of a new Gymnastics Coach and three Fitness coaches should increase usage.

It was noted that use of the Astroturf Pitch would fall, due to necessary closure (supported by the School and Foundation) for repair, which was to take place earlier than the scheduled date of Summer 2019, due to subsidence and a crumbling and torn surface, exacerbated by poor water drainage and weakening of interim repairs through continual use. The Headmaster informed the Group that a consultant, recently employed to assess the pitch, had reported that there was another two years of use left but this was disputed.

It was **AGREED**

1. That the usage statistics be noted.
2. That the recruitment of a Gymnastics Coach and three Fitness coaches and the resulting bookings be welcomed.

5 WIRKSWORTH SPORTS HALL FLOOR TENDER UPDATE

The Anthony Gell School Foundation had offered £16,000 towards the cost of replacing the Sports Hall floor with the remainder being provided from the District Council's Capital Programme.

The Tender process was expected to be completed in early Spring 2018 and, once agreed, the specification would be submitted to the Group for consideration.

It was **AGREED** That the update be noted.

6 ANTHONY GELL SCHOOL UPDATE

The Headmaster informed the Group that a consultant had recently been employed to assess the Astroturf Pitch and had reported that there was another two years of use left; however the School did not agree with this finding. The repair of the pitch was considered an unforeseen expense for the Financial Year 2017/18 but the School was in agreement with the Foundation that it was a necessary task.

The Foundation was due to meet during week commencing 13/11/2017 to discuss the start of a tendering process for replacement of the Astroturf Pitch which once replaced would last for another ten to twenty years dependent on use

It was expected that the replacement will be with a like-for-like material, using a 3G specification rather than a 4G due to the prohibitive cost. A 'rubber crumb' material is the preferred option due to its more forgiving nature, being less prone to inflict injury with better drainage properties.

It was **AGREED**

1. That the update be noted.
2. That the Tendering process to replace the Astroturf Pitch be started.

7 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY GROUP 2017/18

The Membership of Wirksworth Leisure Centre Community Group is defined by its Constitution as follows," Nine voting Members, three of which shall form a quorum at meetings of the Group, one of whom must be a Representative of the District Council".

Jerry Allen was appointed as Representative for Leisure Centre Users in July 2016 but had not attended a meeting. It was agreed that his tenure as a Representative should end with immediate effect. The resulting vacancy for a Member Representative would be advertised; this would help the Group to support the District Council's value of working in partnership to provide affordable, quality services.

It was **AGREED**

1. That Jerry Allen's tenure as Representative of Leisure Centre Users is terminated with immediate effect.
2. That a process of advertisement and recruitment be started to appoint a new Representative of Leisure Centre Users to the Group.

8 EXTRA AGENDA ITEM – LEISURE CENTRE MANAGEMENT TENDERING PROCESS UPDATE

The timetable for the tendering process stated that tenders received would be evaluated in December 2017. In March 2018 (3 months prior to hand over of the contract) the management company awarded the contract would be informed. It was expected the management company would take control as of 1st June 2018.

Evaluation of the tenders was underway and was due for completion the week commencing 13/11/2017, with all legal documentation for the process having been completed in time. It was assumed that a Special Council would be called in March 2018, prior to the award of contract for ratification.

It was **AGREED**

That the group would seek to maintain its existing constitution and close links with the representative organisations and would hope to forge a relationship with the new management company.

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

It was **AGREED**

That the date of the next meeting would be determined prior to the award of a contract to the appointed management company; No date was currently set in the calendar but the Constitution allowed for ad hoc meetings to be called

Meeting closed at **7:10pm.**