

Minutes of the meeting of the Leisure Committee held in The Sportsman Meeting Room, Birchwood Leisure Centre, Longmead, Hatfield AL10 0AN on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Councillor C. Juggins - Chairman  
Councillor S. Laver-Walton – Vice Chairman  
Councillor M. Alder  
Councillor C. Croft  
Councillor S. Jones

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: Councillor L. Clark  
Councillor M. Clark

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor R. Wheeler  
Councillor M. White

OFFICERS: C. A. Lloyd (Town Clerk)  
P. Widdicombe (Deputy Town Clerk)  
M. Speddy (Leisure Services Manager)

#### 60. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D. Archer, Councillor H. Morgan and Councillor G. Wiltshire.

It was noted that Councillor C. Croft was substituting for Councillor D. Archer.

#### 61. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

#### 62. PRESENTATION BY JON BRINDLE

Mr Brindle outlined the history and reasoning behind his business plan for a stadium at Birchwood Leisure Centre which would be considered in Part 2 of the meeting.

He suggested that the Council could sell some of its land at Birchwood for housing and utilise the money to build a stadium to be operated by a non-profit making company or similar.

Mr Brindle was thanked for his presentation and advised that the detailed business plan would be considered in Part 2 as it contained commercially sensitive information.

#### 63. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2011 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

64. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

65. ROE HILL – ARCHITECT QUOTATIONS

Members considered the quotations received and noted that the quotation received from the Clerk's relative had been the first one requested and received to prevent any conflict of interest.

RESOLVED that R Lloyd be appointed as the architect for this project for the sum of £550 plus planning application fee.

(Action: Clerk)

66. DRAINAGE AT BIRCHWOOD

Members noted the proposed costs of a site survey.

RESOLVED that the Clerk approach Welwyn Hatfield Community Housing Trust to seek their agreement for works to be undertaken on their land to minimise cost and achieve a suitable outcome for their tenants.

(Action: Clerk)

67. PLAYScheme INFLATABLES

Members considered the request to purchase two replacement inflatables at a cost of £4,800 each.

RESOLVED that the Clerk obtain 3 quotations with a view to the inflatables being ordered and available for the Easter Playscheme.

(Action: Clerk)

68. DEPOT AT BIRCHWOOD

Members considered the report from Millbridge and RESOLVED that the Birchwood Working Group be requested to look at the options in detail and bring a recommendation back to the Committee.

(Action: Clerk)

69. BIRCHWOOD LEISURE CENTRE – HATFIELD KIDS FUNZONE

Members considered the report of officers and noted the progress to date on refurbishing the FunZone.

Members considered the request to make the FunZone a party only venue at weekends with casual use restricted to 10am to 4pm weekdays including school holidays and changes to the pricing structure.

RESOLVED that

(i) the FunZone be open as follows;

Casual Use	Monday to Friday	10am to 4pm
Self-Catering Parties	Monday to Friday	10am to 4pm
Private Hire	Monday to Friday	4.30pm to 6pm 6.30pm to 8pm 8.30pm to 10pm
Private Hire	Weekends	10am to 11.30am Noon to 1.30pm 2pm to 4.00pm 4.30pm to 6pm 6.30pm to 8pm 8.30pm to 10pm

Such changes to be implemented when practical; and

(ii) Prices from June 2012 be as follows;

Casual Entry	£5 child	£4 toddler	Adult £1 (All Adults)
Self-Catering Party	£8 per child or toddler + room provided All Adults free		
Exclusive Use	£95	Monday to Thursday all sessions	
	£120	Friday to Sunday all late sessions	
	£165	Friday to Sunday all other sessions except at 2pm	
	£180	Saturday & Sunday at 2pm	

(Action: Deputy Town Clerk)

#### 70. BIRCHWOOD CORRIDOR

Members noted the quotation received and viewed the area to be improved. It was RESOLVED that Officers be authorised to approve repair work (including the electrical switch) up to a maximum of £1,750 provided two further quotes are obtained.

(Action: Leisure Services Manager)

#### 71. BIRCHWOOD LEISURE CENTRE \_ MAIN SPORTS HALL

Members considered the report of officers and noted the quotation received. Members viewed the proposed area of work.

RESOLVED that Officers be authorised to approve work up to a maximum of £2,540 provided two further quotes are obtained.

Members requested that the actual quotations be included in the agenda paperwork in future.

(Action: Leisure Services Manager / Clerk)

72. BIRCHWOOD LEISURE CENTRE – CHANGING ROOMS 1 & 2

Members considered the report of officers and noted the quotation received.

RESOLVED that Officers be authorised to approve work up to a maximum of £4,860 provided two further quotes are obtained.

(Action: Leisure Services Manager)

73. CAPITAL WORK – ROE HILL CHANGING ROOM AND GUTTERS

Members considered the report of officers and noted the quotation received.

RESOLVED that Officers be authorised to approve work up to a maximum of £2,525 plus gutter guards provided two further quotes are obtained.

(Action: Leisure Services Manager)

74. NEWGATE STREET VILLAGE HALL

Members noted the request from the Management Committee. It was noted that the Council are responsible for 50% of plant and fixtures.

RESOLVED that the Council pay 50% towards the cost of new light fittings provided 3 quotations are obtained.

(Action: Clerk)

75. NEWGATE STREET VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK

Members considered the problems encountered with the wooden knee rail in the car park. In view of the success of the new kerb at Lemsford Hall it was RESOLVED that an extra high kerb be installed at Newgate Street Village Hall Car Park.

(Action: Clerk)

76. HOWE DELL CHAIRS

Members considered the report and prices for different style of chair.

RESOLVED that 30 padded seat chairs be purchased for £22.46.

(Action: Clerk)

77. LITTER PICKING

Members noted the report of officers. It was suggested that the Clerk approach the Probation Service for one-off litter picking. Members requested that they have input to the list of areas to be litter picked particularly when the land was not owned by the Council.

RESOLVED that the Establishment Sub Committee consider creating a summer litter-picker post.

(Action: Clerk)

78. DOG TRAINING AT CENTENARY PARK

Members considered the request by Mrs Shepherd to hold dog training classes at Centenary Park.

Members were concerned that as this was a commercial venture that the Council should not be left in any kind of risk nor should it have to pay for the dog bins to be emptied should usage of the park increase.

RESOLVED that the Clerk discuss Members' concerns with Mrs Shepherd and report back to a future meeting of the Committee.

79. KEYHOLDERS

Members noted the report of officers and the changes to the risk assessment for keyholders when attending the Council's buildings late at night due to the part night lighting of street lights.

RESOLVED that the Clerk engage a keyholding firm for Roe Hill, Birchwood and Lemsford. This should be reviewed annually.

(Action: Clerk)

80. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business;

- (i) Hatfield Stadium

81. HATFIELD STADIUM

Members noted the report prepared by Mr Brindle but could not agree with the principle of selling the Council's land for housing to fund such a project. Members were keen to see the issues regarding Angerland being resolved as a priority.

RESOLVED that the Clerk obtain whatever advice is necessary to press for re-instatement of Angerland to community pitch use as soon as possible.

(Action: Clerk)

Closure: 21:00

Chairman