

ETWALL LEISURE CENTRE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

15th July 2002

PRESENT:-

South Derbyshire District Council Representatives

Labour Group

Councillors Evens, Rose, Shepherd and Southern.

Conservative Group

Councillor Lemmon.

Officers

I. Reid, C. Mason, S. Wright and P. Spencer.

Representatives of Etwall John Port School

Governors

C. Clemens and M. Crane.

Officers

F. Briggs and G. Cole

EL/1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

It was agreed that Mr. C. Clemens be appointed Chair of the Joint Management Committee for the ensuing year.

EL/2. **APOLOGY**

An apology for absence from the Meeting was received from Mr. K. Stackhouse (South Derbyshire District Council).

EL/3. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

It was agreed that Councillor R. Southern be appointed Vice-Chair of the Joint Management Committee for the ensuing year.

EL/4. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th April 2002 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

EL/5. **MATTERS ARISING**

Further to Minute No. EL/24 of 15th April 2002, it was reported that there had recently been a second positive test for Legionella at the Leisure Centre. Mr. Briggs explained the action that had been taken and the Leisure Centre Manager commented on possible causes for the positive test result. Amendments had been made to operational procedures to minimise the likelihood of any further problems and a recent test had been clear. The positive test was not attributed to the water storage tanks replaced after the

first incident and had not been due to problems with the boiler serving the Leisure Centre.

Members asked about the frequency of tests for Legionella and it was explained that the three monthly tests were in accord with Health and Safety guidelines. The investigations had revealed that one of the boiler “worm” drive mechanisms would need to be replaced in the near future at a cost of approximately £700. Whilst this was a matter for the School, Members of the Committee appreciated the early notification.

RESOLVED:-

That the report and the action taken be noted.

EL/6. **JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Under Minute No. EL/28 of 15th April 2002, the Joint Management Committee received an update on the provision of new leisure facilities and approved a way forward. The same report was submitted to a recent meeting of the Community Group. Whilst it was obviously met with disappointment, the Group reaffirmed its commitment to the project. An area which the Group felt could be improved was communication with Partners involved in the project. Members of the Group had invested time and effort in raising money. They felt excluded from the decisions taken about the Centre, both its existing operation and the delivery of the project to provide new facilities.

It was proposed that two representatives of the Group be co-opted onto the Joint Management Committee, on a non-voting basis. In terms of procedure, the 1974 Joint Agreement, covering management of the facility made no provision for co-option. However, local government legislation permitted the appointment of non-voting co-opted members to Joint Committees. The power to agree such co-option lay with the appointing authorities, which in this case were the County and District Councils. If agreed, the actual appointments could be made by the Joint Management Committee.

There was a wish to include the co-opted representatives in all items of business other than matters of a personnel nature. It was questioned whether the co-opted representatives could have a vote on decisions and Ian Reid explained the implications under the Local Government Code of Conduct should this option be pursued. The co-opted representatives would have to make certain declarations which might be considered a disproportionate intrusion. It was understood that Community Group representatives were not necessarily seeking voting rights.

Mr. Cole enquired why the John Port School was not a party to the decision to co-opt representatives of the Community Group. It was explained that the original 1974 Agreement was between the County and District Councils. As a way forward, it was proposed that the matter be referred for further consideration by the District and County Councils, particularly from a legal perspective. Efforts would be made to seek the consent of Derbyshire County Council to this proposal.

RESOLVED:-

That the Joint Management Committee supports the co-option of two Community Group representatives and that a further report be submitted to a future Meeting of the Committee.

EL/7. **USAGE INFORMATION**

A report was submitted which identified public usage of the Swimming Pool, Squash Courts and Tennis Courts for the financial years 1998/99 to date, together with comparative monthly usage figures. Members were reminded of the minor changes made to the public swimming timetable in 2000/01 to address the declining public use of the facilities. It was felt that the decline in swimming was due partly to the number of private health clubs opening in the Derby and Burton areas in recent years. Income for the Centre had reflected these changes.

The Leisure Centre Manager proposed further variations to the timetable and would submit a report to the next Meeting. Mr. Mason commented that programming could generate a useful discussion on the future direction of the Leisure Centre. Publication of opening times and prices via the Council's website was discussed. Mr. Reid commented on the re-launch of the Council's website in the near future.

RESOLVED:-

That the Usage Information report be noted.

EL/8. **FUNDRAISING - ETWALL EAGLES SWIMMING CLUB**

It was reported that a request had been received from the Etwall Eagles Swimming Club, to affix a plastic business card unit in the Swimming Pool Spectators' Room. As with many clubs and organisations, the Swimming Club was seeking to raise additional funding. In return for the funding, the sponsor's business would be advertised in association with Club activities.

A similar scheme had been introduced some years ago to raise funds on behalf of the Joint Management Committee, but the display unit had to be removed after a spate of vandalism. Members were reminded that the Community Action Group sought business funding to support the provision of new leisure facilities. It was felt that this proposal could have an adverse effect on the Community Action Group's efforts. There were four other clubs which used the Leisure Centre facilities who might seek similar promotional displays if this application was granted.

RESOLVED:-

That the request from Etwall Eagles Swimming Club for a permanent advertising display unit be refused.

EL/9. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ACCESS TO INFORMATION] ACT 1985)**

RESOLVED:-

That, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets after each item.

MINUTES

The Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th April 2002 were received.

MATTERS ARISING

The Joint Management Committee gave further consideration to the provision of new facilities for the Etwall Leisure Centre.

C. CLEMENS

CHAIR