

ETWALL LEISURE CENTRE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

14th July 2003

PRESENT:-

**Representatives of South Derbyshire District Council
Labour Group**

Councillors Lauro, Pabla and Shepherd.

Conservative Group

Councillors Mrs. Hood and Lemmon.

Officers

K. Stackhouse, C. Mason, S. Wright and P. Spencer.

Representatives of Etwall John Port School

Officers

G. Cole and F. Briggs.

Representative of Derbyshire County Council

Councillor Mrs. Littlejohn.

Representatives of Etwall Leisure Centre Community Group

Mrs. K. Bussell and Mrs. A. Wedgbury.

EL/1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Lauro be appointed Chair of the Etwall Leisure Centre Joint Management Committee for the ensuing year.

EL/2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Mr. I. Reid (South Derbyshire District Council) and Mr. M. Crane (Governor, Etwall John Port School).

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

RESOLVED:-

That Mr. C. Clemens be appointed Vice-Chair of the Etwall Leisure Centre Joint Management Committee for the ensuing year.

EL/4. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th April 2003 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

EL/5. MATTERS ARISING

An update was sought under Minute No. EL/34 about the provision of new leisure facilities. The Committee was reminded of the Meeting held in February, where options had been discussed and a suggested way forward agreed. It was hoped to arrange a meeting of key stakeholders, to consider fund raising opportunities.

Some representatives felt that little progress had been achieved and commented that the Community Group was dwindling. Officers confirmed that all partners were committed to the project and securing an initial grant should provide the impetus to move the scheme forward. It was questioned how the assistance of the Derbyshire and Peak Park Sport and Recreation Forum could be secured. The Chair commented that he was the portfolio holder on the Forum for leisure facilities. Comment was also made on the various sporting “need” studies undertaken and the recognition by Sport England that the facilities planning model was outdated.

At the last Meeting, there had been a discussion about the increasing population of the area and the need for educational, social and leisure infrastructure to meet residents’ needs. Expansion of the John Port School might be considered and Mr. Briggs reported on a recent meeting with the Education Authorities. No firm decision had yet been taken about increasing the number of pupils at the John Port School and he outlined a number of issues which the Governors would need to consider before taking such a decision. Mrs. Wedgebury felt that the Community Group was likely to disband unless some progress was made. The Chair agreed to speak with senior Officers at the District Council and ask them to arrange the key stakeholder meeting.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE**EL/6. 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 the comparative monthly usage figures.

The Leisure Centre Manager reported recent trends in use of the facilities. He explained the adjustments made to the Swimming Pool timetable, the up-turn in use of the squash courts and the continued increase in use of the tennis courts. Works had been undertaken by a specialist company to “brighten up” the squash courts and staff were decorating corridors within the Leisure Centre, whilst it was closed. The local Tennis Club was preparing a bid to the National Lottery to fund improvements to the tennis courts. Mr. Stackhouse reported that the annual income was above budget projections.

RESOLVED:-

That the usage information report be noted.

EL/7. SWIMMING POOL SHOW REFURBISHMENT

Under Minute No. EL/38 of 7th April 2003, the Committee was advised of proposals to replace the existing coal-fired boilers with modern gas-fired boilers. This had provided the opportunity to install a new hot water system and wet side

shower provision. Members were reminded of the temporary electric showers which had been provided in recent months.

It had been hoped that the boiler changeover could be undertaken without closing the swimming pool. It had actually proved necessary to close the pool for a period of 6 weeks from 7th July 2003, because of logistical difficulties. The District Council was providing £10,000 of capital monies towards this project, with the remaining resources coming from the Joint Management Committee's building improvements budget. Normally, planned closures of the pool provided the opportunity to undertake essential maintenance and improvement works. However, due to a lack of revenue funding, it had not been possible on this occasion. A capital bid of £16,000 had been submitted through the District Council's interim budget process, to fund the installation of new partitions in the wet side changing rooms, including provision for people with disabilities. The outcome of this bid would be known by mid-July. The financial implications of the closure were reported and the net cost was £6,450. Mr. Cole commented that there would be further energy cost savings which would reduce this deficit. He also confirmed that the works were on schedule.

Mr. Stackhouse circulated the draft final accounts which showed a projected profit of £16,434 for the year. In accordance with the funding agreement, this profit would be distributed to the three partners. Subject to the approval of the appropriate District Council policy committee, it was proposed that the Council's share of £11,000 be returned to the Joint Management Committee. Re-allocation of the John Port School element of the profit would need to be considered by its Governors.

Consideration was given to the installation of new partitions in the Changing Rooms and there was a wish to undertake these works whilst the Leisure Centre was closed. After some discussion, the Community Group representatives agreed to provide the funds for these works, so that an order could be placed.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the report and particularly the financial implications be noted and the proposed actions be approved.***
- (2) That new partitions be installed in the wet side changing rooms and that these works be funded by the Etwall Leisure Centre Community Group.***

EL/8. **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 7th April 2003 were received.

M. LAURO

CHAIR