

ETWALL LEISURE CENTRE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE15th July 2002PRESENT:-South Derbyshire District Council RepresentativesLabour 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 SchoolGovernors

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

ETWALL LEISURE CENTRE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

14th October 2002

PRESENT:-

South Derbyshire District Council Representatives

Labour Group

Councillor Southern (Vice-Chair), Councillors Evens, Rose and Shepherd.

Conservative Group

Councillor Lemmon.

Officers

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

Representatives of Etwall John Port School

Governors

C. Clemens and M. Crane.

Officers

F. Briggs.

Representatives of Derbyshire County Council

Councillor Routledge.

APOLOGY

An apology for absence from the Meeting was received from Mr. G. Cole (Etwall John Port School).

EL/12. **MINUTES**

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

EL/13. **REPORTS OF MEMBERS**

On behalf of the Joint Management Committee, the Chair welcomed County Councillor Routledge. Councillor Routledge explained the decision of the Derbyshire County Council to recommence Member representation and it was hoped that the Local Member, Councillor Mrs. Littlejohn would also be appointed to the Joint Management Committee.

EL/14. **JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Further to Minute No. EL/6 of 15th July 2002, the Committee received an update on the co-option of Community Group Representatives. The proposal had been considered by the South Derbyshire District Council at a Meeting of its Community Services Committee on 18th July 2002. It had agreed to the suggested co-option of Community Group Representatives, subject to the

consent of Derbyshire County Council. The County Council had since confirmed that it raised no objection to the co-option of Community Group Representatives.

In accordance with the original 1974 Agreement and as raised earlier in the Meeting, the County Council also wished to resume Member representation on the Joint Management Committee.

Consideration was given to the likely nominations from the Community Group. It was agreed to write seeking nominations and to place the formal co-option item early on the agenda so that those representatives could participate in the next Meeting.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That nominations be sought from the Etwall Leisure Centre Community Group and that two members be co-opted, on a non-voting basis, at the next Joint Management Committee Meeting.***
- (2) That the appointment of County Councillor Routledge be welcomed and that the Committee notes the likely future appointment of County Councillor Mrs. Littlejohn.***

EL/15. **SWIMMING POOL – PROGRAMME OF USE**

It was reported that at most Leisure Centres, programmes of use evolved through custom and practice, reflecting different pressures on pool times. The main demands had traditionally been casual public swimming, organised swimming lessons, club use, organised activities and private hire. One of the areas that had traditionally been safeguarded was public swimming. In regular management reports to the Committee, Members had been made aware of the decline in public swimming. This was a national trend, attributed in part to competition from other activities and private sector facilities.

There was an unmet demand for swimming lessons and for increased time in the programme for club/private hire use. Appended to the report were details of the current programme of use and the revised programme proposed to reflect the changing demand. Summary level information was also contained within the report.

In considering the proposals, Members voiced concerns at the possible loss of trade through reduced public access to the pool. The Leisure Centre Manager commented on the continual decline in public use of the swimming pool and explained that there was a twelve month waiting list for swimming lessons. He also spoke of the known demand for club use of the pool. With the declining public use of the facilities, it was questioned whether staffing levels could similarly be reduced. An outline was given of the staffing requirements and it might be possible to consider this issue during the budget review process. A Member congratulated the pro-active management approach to recognise this problem and to submit proposals to maximise use of the pool.

RESOLVED:-

That the Joint Management Committee approves the amendments to the swimming pool programme, as submitted.

EL/16. **FINAL ACCOUNT 2001/02**

The Final Accounts for 2001/02 were submitted. The Leisure Centre's final outturn showed a relatively small net underspend of £3,740 and the squash courts had generated additional net income of £1,816. The formal statement of accounts was awaiting audit and would be reported to the Committee when this had been completed.

RESOLVED:-

(1) That the final outturn for 2001/02 be approved.

(2) That the underspend for 2001/02 be carried forward to 2002/03.

EL/17. **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 July 2002 were received.

REPORTS OF MEMBERS – FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES (Paragraph 7)

A Member reported on possible future funding opportunities.

ETWALL SWIMMING POOL SHOWER REFURBISHMENT (Paragraph 9)

The Committee considered options for refurbishment of the shower system. A verbal report was also provided on possible opportunities to overcome known problems with the boiler system.

C. CLEMENS

CHAIR

