

ETWALL LEISURE CENTRE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

29<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014

**PRESENT:-**

**Representatives of South Derbyshire District Council**

Councillors

Councillors J.Lemmon (Vice Chair), A. Roberts (substitute for Councillor M. Bale), D. Shepherd

South Derbyshire District Council Officers

S. Batchelor (Director of Community & Planning Services), K. Stackhouse (Director of Finance & Corporate Services), A. Maher (Democratic Services Officer).

**Representatives of Etwall John Port School (E.J.P.S)**

Governors

C. Harrison and B. Whyman M.B.E. (Chair)

Officers

G. Golding

**Representatives of Derbyshire County Council**

Councillor R. Hosker.

**Representatives of Active Nation**

D. Johns, S Smith

EL/01

**APOLOGIES**

P. Downs (E.J.P.S Governor), Cllr M. Bale. Councillor A. Roberts substituted at the meeting for Councillor Bale.

EL/02 **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

Barrie Whyman MBE was appointed as Chair of the Committee for the year.

EL/03 **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

Councillor John Lemmon was appointed as the Vice-Chair of the Committee for the year.

EL/04 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Committee was informed that no declarations of interest from its members had been received for this meeting.

EL/05 **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2014 were checked and agreed for accuracy and noted. Members expressed regret that it had taken so long to arrange a follow-up meeting.

EL/06 **CO-OPTION OF COMMUNITY GROUP REPRESENTATIVES**

Members were informed that under the revised constitutional arrangements for the Committee there was no longer provision for the co-option of community group representatives. It was agreed that this item be deleted from future Committee agendas.

EL/07 **SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Committee was informed that a schedule of future meetings had been agreed. All of them would be held on a Monday at 5pm. The dates were: 27<sup>th</sup> October, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015, 13<sup>th</sup> April, 13<sup>th</sup> July and 28<sup>th</sup> September. It was agreed that the meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> September should be designated as the Annual Meeting of the Committee.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the schedule of future meetings of the Committee be approved.***

EL/08 **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

The Council's Director of Finance and Corporate Services introduced this report. He explained that it fell into two parts. The first part gave details of income and expenditure during the course of the year. The second part dealt with governance issues and in particular included the Annual Governance Statement for 2013/14.

During the discussion on the Governance Statement, members queried whether the Audit Sub-Committee had specifically agreed the authority's internal control arrangements or its Local Code of Governance, or whether these issues had only been covered as part of a wider discussion about Active Nation rather than solely

about Etwall. Councillor Shepherd confirmed that he had discussed this matter separately with the Director of Finance and Corporate Services and was content with the explanation offered.

Members of the Committee considered the detailed financial information contained in the report and in particular the role played by the sinking fund. It was confirmed that the Committee would receive a report on the 27<sup>th</sup> October explaining how this fund would contribute to a major capital project to upgrade part of the centre.

The Committee also discussed the management fees paid to Active Nation (AN.) for running the site and how the direction of travel was for these fees to reduce, with the aim that A.N ultimately pays the Council for right to run the facility. It was confirmed that any proposed changes to the governance arrangements for the centre would be presented to the Committee for discussion.

Finally, members made it clear that they would like further information about the complaints and compliments received about the centre. It was agreed that reports summarising this information should be reported to future meetings of the Committee.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That the Statement of Accounts for 2013/14 are approved for signing by the Treasurer to the Joint Management Committee;***
- (2) That the Committee authorises the Chairman and the Secretary to the Committee to sign the Annual Governance Statement for 2013/14.***

EL/09. **PERFORMANCE REPORT FROM ACTIVE NATION – VERBAL PRESENTATION**

Steve Smith, Deputy Contracts Manager, gave a presentation on behalf of Active Nation about the operation and performance of the centre since the last meeting of the Committee. The key point to emerge was that the centre had been very well used over this period, both in terms of increased visits by local people and hosting high profile events, such as a match between the British and Australian national badminton teams. However, this growing success, it was explained, had raised issues, both in terms of the extra wear and tear to the building and facilities. It was also becoming more difficult to route the extra numbers of visitors in and out of the building.

Members of the Committee discussed the information contained in the presentation. They focused on the pricing policies for those using the centre. In particular, there was a consensus that we need to try and ensure that support is be provided so that deprived groups can also make use of the facilities and take part in sports activities. It was agreed that further work ought to take place in order to see what scope there was to do this.

The Committee welcomed the update and thanked those involved in running the centre for their efforts.

CHAIRMAN