

# Minutes

**Meeting of:** Durrington Swimming & Fitness Centre Managing Body

**Meeting held in:** Durrington Sports Centre, Durrington, Salisbury

**Date:** 31 October 2005

**Commencing at:** 6.00pm

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**Present:**  
**WITH VOTING RIGHTS**

**District Councillors:**  
Councillor I C West (Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs. J Greville  
Councillor T Woodbridge

**Wiltshire County Council**  
None

**WITHOUT VOTING RIGHTS**

Mrs T Siddall (Durrington Parish Council)  
Councillor J Cole-Morgan (Portfolio Holder for Community and Housing, Salisbury District Council)

**Officers**

Dave Neudegg (Policy Director, Salisbury District Council)  
Rick Weston (Manager - Durrington Swimming & Fitness Sports Centre)  
Luke Vaughan (Operations Manager - Durrington Swimming & Fitness Sports Centre)  
Robin Townsend (Head of Community Initiatives)  
Sara Draper (Assistant Democratic Services Officer)  
Lindsay Mertens (Assistant Democratic Services Officer)

**Apologies**

Councillor M Baker  
Mr S Rennie (Durrington Parish Council).

**1. Report of Last Meeting**

**AGREED** – that subject to the correction of the Apologies to read Mr S Rennie, the report of the last meeting held on 1 August 2005, be **approved** as a correct record and signed by the chairman.



Awarded in:  
Housing Services  
Waste and Recycling Services



## 2. **Declarations of Interest**

Mrs T Siddall declared a personal interest in any matters relating to Upper Avon School as she is a member of the Governing Body.

## 3. **Update on Half Yearly Performance**

The members of the Managing Body considered the previously circulated report of the Durrington Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre Manager.

He emphasised the following points:

The swimming lessons, membership schemes and fitness classes continued to be the area of largest income growth.

The Kidz Camp was very well attended in the summer however the high staffing ratios necessary for this type of activity meant that the Centre did not make a great deal of profit from running the camp.

The Housing Services Department have been tasked with ensuring that the car park is maintained in line with health and safety standards. Therefore potholes will be filled when necessary however, there is no plan to resurface the entire car park at present.

The Durrington Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre have been making year on year efficiencies and the manager felt that he had made most of the savings that could be made. However, he informed members that he wanted to undertake the same efficiency review of the Five Rivers leisure centre to make future savings.

The Chairman thanked the managers and staff of the centre for all the good work that they have done over recent weeks in keeping morale and standards high at the Centre despite the discussions over the future of the Centre in the local media.

The Chairman also informed those present that he had written to the Chief Executive of Wiltshire County Council thanking him for his contribution to ensuring that Recreation Road was repaired to a high standard.

Mr Rennie wrote to members to raise the issue of whether or not the running of Five Rivers had a financial impact on Durrington Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre. The officers informed the members that the running of Five Rivers had a positive impact on the facility at Durrington. For example the shared management structure meant that Durrington could take advantage of services such as those offered by the marketing manager which the facility would not be able to afford otherwise.

## 4. **Update on the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)**

The Members considered the update on the MUGA contained within the Manager's report previously circulated. The manager explained that it was intended that the MUGA would not be a drain on resources however, the amount of income that it would generate was unknown until it began operating. A member of staff had been appointed to operate the facility and this person would be in post from 7<sup>th</sup> November. Public bookings had already been received and staff were currently working on initiatives such as a mini world cup tournament to encourage local children to use the facility.

He informed members that Salisbury District Council had made a contribution of £1000 towards the facility and Wiltshire County Council was funding the costs of operating the facility.

## 5. **Medium Term Financial Strategy**

The members present considered the previously circulated Cabinet report on the Medium Term Financial Strategy. In addition to this the Policy Director circulated a presentation at the meeting.

The Policy Director informed those present of the following:

- The medium term financial strategy is a document that is produced annually and always covers three years ahead.
- The average funding gap over the last few years has been £350,000 per annum and in previous years this has been funded through efficiencies and fairly minor changes to services.
- Over the next few years the funding gap will increase and the options for making the savings are tougher than previously.
- The reasons for this increase in the funding gap include the increased costs of bringing Five Rivers back in-house (£300,000 approximately) and reduced income from land charges as a result of the housing market slowing down (£100,000 approximately).
- The Council is examining rural sports provision to consider any possible ways of providing the services in a more cost efficient way to either increase revenue considerably or reduce costs considerably. The Council is also looking at a review of premium payments for leisure staff.

- Tisbury Leisure Centre is one of the main focuses for the review as there is no contribution either from Wiltshire County Council or the local schools to the leisure centre. Wiltshire County Council does make a contribution to Durrington Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre for school usage.
- The Cabinet are examining the extent to which local communities are willing to support the services being provided in a new way to achieve savings.

The members made the following comments:

- The Chairman of Durrington Parish Council had initiated a petition in opposition to any consideration of closing the Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre and he had gathered 3250 signatures to date. Members and officers noted that the names on the petition could be used by the Centre to try and increase use of the Centre as these 3250 people obviously value the facility.
- Leisure facilities contributed to creating a healthier population and this was something that the Cabinet should take into careful consideration.
- Residents of rural areas feel that they do not benefit from as many services as those who live in the city even though they pay the same levels of council tax and any option to close rural leisure centres will exacerbate this.

**AGREED** – that Cabinet be informed that the Durrington Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre Managing Body are strongly opposed to any options of closing the facility.

6. **Update on Parish Newsletters being contacted to advertise special offers at the pool:**

The members stated that they were very keen to receive a brief advertisement setting out opening times of the Centre as well as prices for activities which could be placed in all parish newsletters. The Manager of the Centre undertook that the Marketing Manager would produce such an advert. It was noted by those present that this would be separate to the seasonal promotions and initiatives undertaken by the Marketing Manager and would be a much more basic advert.

7. **Date of Next Meeting**

**AGREED** – that the date of the next meeting will be Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2006 at 6:00 pm at Durrington Sports Centre.

8. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

The meeting closed at 19:20