

Minutes

Meeting of: Durrington Swimming & Fitness Centre Managing Body

Meeting held in: Durrington Sports Centre, Durrington, Salisbury

Date: 14 March 2006

Commencing at: 6.00pm

Present:
WITH VOTING RIGHTS

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

Wiltshire County Council
None

Officers
Rick Weston (Manager - Durrington Swimming & Fitness Sports Centre)
Luke Vaughan (Operations Manager - Durrington Swimming & Fitness Sports Centre)
Sara Draper (Assistant Democratic Services Officer)
Lisa Moore (Members Support Officer)

Apologies
Mr S Rennie (Durrington Parish Council).
Mrs T Siddall (Durrington Parish Council)

1. Report of Last Meeting

AGREED – The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 31 October 2005 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

3. Matters Arising

Councillor Woodbridge asked if anyone had written to the 3250 petitioners who wrote to the Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and asked them to attend the centre or to assist with fundraising activities.



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



Councillor Mrs Greville proposed putting an article on this issue in the Durrington News, which she would be happy to write, and agreed to run it by Councillor West, Councillor Woodbridge, Luke, Rick and Robin before publishing.

It was brought to the Managing Body's attention that there was an estate agent, in Amesbury, who sponsored football teams and could be approached to see if he would sponsor something at the centre.

4. 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 which emphasised the following points:

- membership schemes were continuing to grow month on month, along with the swimming lessons, and fitness classes, which continued to be the area of largest income growth.
- the amount of swimming parties being booked, and Mothers and Babes attendances had dropped.
- take-up of adult swimming lessons had increased by 23% compared to last year. The efforts of the teacher, Jenny Smith, in particular her fantastic rapport with customers was cited as the key element in this success
- that the centre had bucked trends over the December and January period as the anticipated drop in figures did not happen. Indeed membership numbers continued a good steady growth.
- the early success of the MUGA has come as something of a surprise to staff. Initiatives under development for this area include 'Turn up and Play' and 'Mini World Cup' and 'Mini Wimbledon' tournaments planned for the summer.
- the quick thinking and excellent response of the 'on duty' staff at the time of a recent incident was highlighted for praise. It was emphasised that the conclusion could have been far more serious but for the extremely well coordinated team effort.
- It was felt that the staff should be congratulated for their continued delivery of excellent service in the face of uncertainties around pay and conditions of service arising out of the service review. Many staff were clearly worried about the future but this has not impacted on their work or the manner in which they have carried it out. Councillor West asked the Manager to pass the thanks of the managing body onto the staff for their continued efforts. Councillor Mrs Greville thanked the staff at the centre on behalf of the regular users, and noted that the staff were always exceptionally friendly and helpful.

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

The members of the Managing Body received a copy of a letter which had been drafted by the Chairman and an update from the Durrington Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre Manager.

Some of the issues and points raised were:

The Parish News letter had not taken off as hoped.

The Chairman stated that it was the job of the Managing Body to promote the Centre and be pro-active. He praised the local commitment of the people of Tisbury to their Centre and stated that he would like to see something similar for Durrington, starting with regular news letters in a selection of local village magazines, at a rate of one newsletter every two months.

Agreed –

1) That an A5 size advertising document would be produced and sent to Democratic Services for them to circulate to all Councillors in the Northern Area. It would then be up to the District Councillors to take a lead in forwarding this to the magazines.

2) That Councillor Woodbridge's draft advertisement be utilised as the first document and thereafter the Manager would produce a site based advert every two months and would involve staff at the centre by asking them to come up with the themes for the adverts.

3) That all adverts include details of memberships, asking people to contact the centre for more information, quoting the reference at the bottom of the advert in order to gain a discount. This would enable the centre to track how successful the advert has been.

Note: Councillor Woodbridge made an additional suggestion after the meeting, that when staff at the centre answer telephone calls from the public after the advert has gone out, they should ask the callers where they saw the information. This would give a better indicator as to the success of the advert, as most callers would not volunteer the information unless prompted first.

6. Urgent Matters

Councillor Mrs Greville spoke on behalf of the Thursdays Over Fifties swimming session.

She commented that there was a problem caused by the overlap of elderly people changing when school children were changing for lessons and she felt that whilst the children were well behaved the influx of children inevitably caused noise and disturbance.

The Manager explained that he was not in a current position to restrict school access as between 9:00am to 5:00pm Wiltshire County Council had priority over the use of the Centre for schools. However he added that he was currently looking at other necessary works to the changing facilities which might be used to help to resolve some of the issues that Councillor Mrs Greville had spoken about. The Manager emphasised that on the whole a good working relationship existed with Wiltshire County Council schools.

Agreed –

- 1) That a sign be erected warning elderly people that children would be changing in the same area and that if they wished to avoid having to change whilst the children were in the area they should remain in the pool until the end of the session, thereby ensuring that school children would be entering the pool and vacating the changing room when the elderly people need to shower and change.

The meeting closed at 19:10