



Durrington Swimming and Fitness Centre

Managing Body

Minutes

25 October 2004 7.00pm
Durrington Swimming and Fitness Centre,
Durrington

**THESE MINUTES SHOULD BE KEPT FOR USE AT THE NORTHERN AREA
COMMITTEE MEETING ON 9th December 2004
MINUTES NOT REQUIRING COUNCIL APPROVAL**

Present:

Voting Members:

Salisbury District Council: Councillors I C West (Chairman), M Baker & Mrs J M Greville

Wiltshire County Council: None

Non Voting Members: Mr S Rennie (Durrington Parish Council)

Officers : Robin Townsend, Rick Weston, Sara Draper

Apologies:

Councillors H Bojdys

1. REPORT OF THE LAST MEETING

AGREED – that the report of the last meeting held on 1st December 2003, be **approved** as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. PERFORMANCE TO DATE REPORT 2004/2005 AND ONGOING OPERATIONAL MATTERS

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

In addition to the items outlined in the report, the following issues were discussed:

The manager highlighted the fact that this had been a particularly testing time for the staff at Durrington Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre as the Council had recently taken over the management of the Five Rivers site in the City. This had meant that the staff at Durrington had been faced with extra work and many of them were having to work at the other site when called upon. However, he noted that the fact that the transition had been completed so smoothly was a testament to all the staff and several were highlighted for special thanks in the report.

A discussion took place about increasing the marketing to include the army bases and also placing adverts in parish magazines to increase the customer base of the centre. The manager informed members that the lady who was previously in the post of the marketing manager was currently on maternity leave. The post had now been filled and once the new marketing manager had dealt with the high existing work-load these new avenues would certainly be explored.

Financial Projection

The manager informed those present that following the decision to resume the management responsibilities for the Five Rivers site a great deal of time had been spent on it. Consequently there has necessarily been less time spent on developing the initiatives which have kept Durrington's profits up in recent years. However, he did note that this was a specific and time-limited circumstance and the future financial projection for the site was very bright.

Gym Use

The manager stated that Durrington Swimming and Fitness Centre could not easily compete with purpose built gyms and to try and increase the gym usage would involve chasing a difficult market and that it has now been accepted that this is not an area the Centre should focus on.

RESOLVED – That the report of the Durrington Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre Manager be **approved**.

4. Any Other Business

Decision on a Leisure Trust

The Acting Head of Community Initiatives informed those present that on 20th October Salisbury District Council's Cabinet voted to defer a decision on the leisure trust for eighteen months. He explained that this decision was taken for three reasons:

1. To allow time to fully assess the affects of the take over of Five Rivers which had occurred on 1st April 2004. He explained that this had been a very complicated operation as many systems and procedures needed to be created from scratch. There was also a negative public perception of the facility as a result of the legacy from the previous management company, it would take some time to overcome this.
2. At this time members and officers of SDC did not feel that they had enough financial information on which to base a future prediction of income and expenditure. Therefore delaying the decision on a leisure trust for eighteen months would give SDC two full financial years to stabilise the site and increase income. On the basis of two years' worth of financial information members could make much more robust predictions than they could after the initial six month period.
3. Negotiations between SDC and WCC over Durrington, Tisbury and Amesbury leisure sites have so far not reached a satisfactory solution for both parties.

The officer explained that there was much work that SDC intended to do to improve the leisure centres in the District. This work included a review of the staffing structures with the aim of creating one strategic management structure for all the sites, a marketing plan for all the sites under one manager and pooled maintenance budgets.

However, the officer also informed those present that the medium term financial strategy, adopted by Cabinet in October, included a freeze on all budgets for leisure facilities and that officers were currently working hard to try and minimise the impact that this would have on services.

Recreation Road

Councillor Baker informed the meeting that the Board of Governors of Upper Avon School had approached him in his capacity as their local county councillor and informed him that they were no longer willing to tolerate the impasse over Recreation Road. Councillor Baker urged SDC and WCC to work together to find a solution to this issue as a matter of urgency. He stated that the matter had been brought to the attention of the Northern Area Committee whose members had written to the Chief Executive of WCC and that he had responded to the letter. However, this issue had since seemed to lose its impetus.

Councillor Baker informed members that an update on the situation would be brought to the Northern Area Committee meeting in November but that he also would like to request that the Managing Body write to the Chief Executive of both SDC and WCC to ask that this issue not only be reopened but that it be considered as a matter of urgency.

AGREED – That the Managing Body's concerns in relation to the car park and Recreation Road be brought to the attention of the Chief Executives of both Salisbury District Council and Wiltshire County Council.

5. Date of Next Meeting:

RESOLVED – That the next meeting of the Durrington Managing Body be held on Monday 17th January 2005 at 6pm and that all future meetings of the Managing Body be held on Mondays commencing at 6pm.

The meeting closed at 2030pm