

Minutes

Meeting of: Tisbury and District Sports Centre Managing Body

Meeting held in: Tisbury Sports Centre, Tisbury, Salisbury

Date: 1 November 2005

Commencing at: 5.00pm

Present (with voting rights):

Mr R Frankland - Chairman
Mr P Skinner
Mr J Ryan
Mr M James

District Councillors:

Councillor Mrs J A Green
Councillor J B Hooper
Councillor Mrs S Willan

St John's First School:

Mrs S Holliday

Officers:

Sara Draper (Democratic Services)
Debbie Stevens (Acting Manager)
Robin Townsend (Head of Community Initiatives)
Dave Neudegg (Policy Director)

34. Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman informed members that he had received a request from a member of the public to attend the meeting. He clarified that the meeting was normally a private meeting. He suggested that should members decide that the public should be able to attend, the reasons why an exception was being made should be set-out. However, this situation did not arise at the meeting as the member of the public did not attend.

The Chairman also informed those present that Mr Skinner was appointed to the Managing Body to represent the Nadder Middle School which no longer existed. Therefore it was agreed that officers would make investigations to find out whether the new Tisbury School should be asked to send a representative to future meetings of the Managing Body.



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



35. Minutes of the Last Meeting:

Agreed - that the minutes of the last meeting held on 28 June 2005 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

36. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

37. Manager's Report for June 2005 – September 2005:

Debbie Stevens, the Acting Centre Manager of Tisbury & District Sports Centre presented her report to the group (previously circulated).

The Acting Manager made the following points:

- The annual number of visits per square metre on page 1 of the report should read 11.33 not 6.90, therefore this was an increase not a decrease. The Manager did note that supervising parents were now included in the attendance figures for the first time but that this only accounted for about 30% of the increase.
- The reasons for the increased attendance included a wider range of activities being available, greater awareness of the need to exercise amongst the population and the growth of Tisbury as a village.
- This increase meant that some activities were stretched to capacity and there were many children on the waiting list. There was limited scope for the expansion of these activities without additional facilities e.g. increased hall space.
- The Village Visits had ceased. However, only one complaint had been received in respect of this cessation.
- New regulations meant that unless the Centre was OFSTED registered, staff were not allowed to supervise children under the age of eight for more than 90 minutes. It would be very expensive for the Centre to become OFSTED registered.
- The Centre was full at peak times but during the day there were slots, for example 11am – 1pm, when the Centre was much quieter and activities need to be found which can fill the hall at these times.

Members made the following comments:

- A survey should be undertaken to ascertain where in the District the users of the Centre were coming from. This would allow marketing to be targeted at those villages whose residents do not patronise the Centre regularly.
- The operators of Tisbus should be approached to investigate whether they can provide transport for the disabled customers who are finding it difficult to reach the Centre.
- Tisbury Parish Council had gathered a group of 30 volunteers who were willing to undertake activities to help keep the Centre open. This could include handing out leaflets on Tisbury High Street advertising the Centre.
- The Centre Manager should approach the R2 officer at Salisbury District Council to discuss whether R2 would be available to increase or upgrade any of the existing facilities at the Centre which could then increase attendances even further.

Resolved – that the report of the Acting Centre Manager be noted and that the Acting Manager be thanked for all her hard work whilst covering the post.

38. Medium Term Financial Strategy:

The Policy Director gave a presentation to the Managing Body on the Medium Term Financial Strategy. The presentation is attached to these minutes.

The Policy Director highlighted the following points:

- With specific regard to the impact on Tisbury, the Cabinet would be examining rural sports provision to consider any possible ways of providing the services in a more cost efficient way to either considerably increase revenue or considerably reduce costs.
- Increasing the number of attendances at the Centre would be very welcome but this would not make a large difference to the financial situation as the costs of running the Centre would still be considerable.

Options to be considered include

- A strategic review of the management structure for Five Rivers; Durrington and Tisbury to establish a single management structure
- Seek agreement from WCC / local schools to contribute an appropriate fee for the use of the facility, possibly using a formula similar to that used at Durrington

- Examining the extent to which local communities are willing to support the services being provided in a new way to achieve savings. This could include a contribution from local parish councils towards the running of the facility
- Bring forward the review of Leisure Trusts and undertake a financial appraisal of the various options open to the council to transfer the management of the leisure facilities to a Trust (or Trusts).
- Review the current fees & charges and bring them more into line with the upper quartile range
- Negotiate the cessation of premium payments on a corporate basis.

The members made the following points:

- The public response to the option of closing the Centre showed how valued the Centre and the staff were to the local community and the staff should take pride in this.
- The parish council representatives present were willing to look at every possible option to keep the Centre open and this included investigating the possibility of forming a community trust to take over the leisure centre. However, if Tisbury residents were to do this then they would have to be fully informed of the experience of Downton Parish Council when they took over the Sports Club in Downton.
- Local people could take out membership of the Centre even if they did not intend to use it regularly as a way of registering their support.
- The idea of closing the Centre and replacing it with a peripatetic service to local villages was not supported as it was felt the uptake would be dramatically reduced.
- Several alternative areas of savings were suggested such as reducing arts grants to remove the need to consider closing the Centre.

Resolved – That

1. A meeting of the members of the Tisbury and District Sports Centre Managing Body be arranged for Monday 28th November 2005 at 5pm at the Centre to formulate a response on the Medium Term Financial Strategy to be submitted to Salisbury District Council's Cabinet.
2. That the financial figures on the costs of running the Tisbury and District Sports Centre be sent to both Tisbury and West Tisbury Parish Council.

39. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

Meeting closed 7pm