

Minutes

Meeting of: Tisbury and District Sports Centre Managing Body

Meeting held in: Tisbury Sports Centre, Tisbury, Salisbury

Date: 7th February 2006

Commencing at: 5.30pm

Present

(with voting rights)

Mr R Frankland - Chairman

District Councillors:

Councillor Mrs J A Green

Councillor J B Hooper

County Councillor:

Councillor Mrs B Wayman (Mere and Tisbury)

(without voting rights)

West Tisbury Parish Council:

Mr J Ryan

Local Community Group Representatives:

Mr B Baddeley – Chairman of the Tisbury and West Tisbury Parish Councils Joint Working Group

Mr P Skinner

Officers:

Robin Townsend (Head of Community Initiatives)

Louise Wareham (Tisbury and District Sports Centre Manager)

Apologies:

Councillor Mrs S A Willan (Salisbury District Council)

Mrs S Halliday (St John's First School)

40. Minutes of the Last Meeting:

Agreed - that the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 1 November 2005 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



41. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman welcomed Mr Baddeley as the Chairman of the Tisbury and West Tisbury Parish Councils Joint Working Group to the meeting.

42. Manager's Report for November 2005-January 2006:

Louise Wareham, the manager of Tisbury & District Sports Centre presented her report to the group (previously circulated)

The manager made the following points:

Attendances for the period April 05 - December 05 have increased by 9345 when compared to the same period last year equating to a 43% increase, whilst income for the same period has increased by 7.5% and the subsidy per visit has reduced from £5.95 to £4.27

The centre has seen its income increase by 10% for the period November 05 - January 06 when compared to the same period last year.

The Head of Community Initiatives updated members of the managing body on the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The following points were made:

The Cabinet has listened to the views expressed by the rural communities and recognises the importance of providing access to indoor sports provision in rural parts of the district, however members remain concerned at the high costs per user at these centres.

The Cabinet is therefore proposing to meet a vast majority of the savings required through internal efficiencies and is looking to save £85K at the council's leisure centres by:

- A strategic review of the senior staffing structure at all three leisure centres
- Bringing fees and charges at Tisbury inline with those at Five Rivers
- Re-negotiating the management agreement of Tisbury & District Sports Centre so all users of the facility pay a fair contribution to the running of the centre
- Continue discussions with parish councils on how to extend usage of the centres and look at utilising planning development funds to enhance the facilities.
- Setting an objective to grow business at the centres by 2.5% per annum over the next three years

In addition to this the council is also proposing the complete removal of premium payments to all staff for evening and weekend work. (This will be applied to all relevant staff across the council including those working at the council's three leisure centres).

Members made the following points:

- The proposed fees and charges were seen to be reasonable, however the impact of the increases would need to be monitored on a monthly basis to ensure that they would not have a detrimental impact on usage.
- Why the Fees and Charges in the recently published 'On Track' did not take into account these proposals and why there was no reference to any of the clubs in Mere.
- On behalf of the Managing Body and everyone involved in recent events the Chairman expressed thanks to both Tisbury and West Tisbury Parish Councils under the guidance of Bobby Baddeley for producing such a detailed and comprehensive report. It was a credit to all concerned that they have been able to galvanise the local community to produce this report.
- The impetus and enthusiasm shown by the local community over the past three months should not be lost and that where possible the relationship between the Managing Body and the local community group be fostered and local interested parties be encouraged to get more involved in the Managing Body.

- If the removal of premium payments was approved there would need to be assurances that this would not have a negative impact on the service due to the council not being able to employ staff to work during the evenings and weekends
- Every effort should be made to encourage the Plymouth Brethren to use the Centre and look to optimise the daytime use of the centre.
- It is important that when the strategic review of the management structure for the three leisure centres is complete that Tisbury & District Sports Centre must retain its own individuality and character.
- It was noted that it was very rare to have more than one representative from WCC in attendance at the meeting and it was suggested that WCC should be requested to proactively encourage its nominated members to attend. It was also suggested that if Councillor Tony Deane (Chalke and Nadder) was not a nominated member then maybe it would be possible for WCC to consider his inclusion if he was interested. County Councillor Wayman agreed to discuss this with County Councillor Deane.

Resolved:

1. That the Chairman of the Tisbury and District Sports Centre Managing Body write to Wiltshire County Council (WCC), with regard to the following issues:-
 - (a) the Managing Body believes that the current management agreement should be re-negotiated to ensure that schools do make a financial contribution towards the use of the site, similar to the agreement in place in Durrington.
 - (b) whilst the Managing Body acknowledges that WCC would appear to have devolved budgets to schools some time ago it is contested that WCC has benefited enormously from having the sports centre on the school site since its construction in the early 1990's and that it seems unreasonable to put the onus entirely on the schools to finance their use of the sports centre especially as the Management Agreement is between Salisbury District Council and WCC, not the school. WCC should assist the schools and subsidise, if not the whole cost, then certainly a proportion of the fee.
 - (c) requesting WCC to provide details as to how the budgets were devolved to the schools and what allowance was made towards the costs of sports in the schools in Tisbury.

(NOTE: A copy of the letter sent from the Chairman and the response from Mr Wolfson, Director, Department for Children & Education are attached at **Annex A** to these minutes)

2. That the Chairman approach Alan White and Mark James to discuss whether they would be prepared to get more involved in the business of the Managing Body.
3. That the Tisbury and District Sports Centre Managing Body meet on quarterly basis from now on with the next meeting to be held in April and that at each meeting officers provide detailed progress reports on all the proposals to reduce costs and increase income.
4. That a letter be sent to WCC requesting that its four appointed Members (i.e. County Councillors as specified in the Instrument of Management) be proactively encouraged to attend future meetings of the Managing Body.

(NOTE: No action to be taken in relation to (4) pending the decision on the Instrument of Management to be taken at the April meeting)

43. Instrument of Management

Resolved: That due to a lack of time, this matter was deferred for consideration at the next meeting of the Tisbury and District Sports Centre Managing Body.

44. Matters of Urgency

There were no matters of urgency.

Meeting closed 7.00pm