Notes of a Meeting of Wem Swimming & Lifestyle Centre Liaison Group held on Wednesday 15th October 2025 at 14.30 in the Town Council Meeting Room, Wem Library

Present:- Cllrs P Broomhall (Chairman), L Gilchrist, G Soul, D Hill.
WSLC - E Towers, I Jamieson, L Redmond – Deputy Manager.

Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk)

1 **Apologies for absence** – To receive apologies for absence
Karen Creagh – centre manager.

2 **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests** – To receive any disclosable pecuniary interests.
None declared.

3 **Minutes** – To approve as a correct record the notes of a meeting of this Group held on 9.7.25 .

RESOLVED:- to approve the notes of the group meeting held on 9.7.25 which were duly signed by the chairman as a true record.

4 **Action Plan -** to discuss progress on the action plan including the following matters
a) Chlorine alarm – Edward Towers reported that this had been considered by The Directors and The Manager and they had concluded that sufficient measures are already in place so a chlorine alarm was not considered necessary.
b) Replacement boiler and air handling unit – the cost of these two items have not yet been identified as The Directors were considering what specification to look at.
c) Liner monitoring – it was reported that this had started and Cllr Gilchrist had taken photos of the larger scale patches. The next monitoring is due on w/c 7.11.25, however she explained that the scale that had formed seemed to follow the lines of the tile grout beneath the liner so this could be a factor in the problem.
It was also reported that both sheds were now in place, and that the Tell Tales will be monitored 6 monthly.

RESOLVED:- to note the action plan updates.

5 **Maintenance Responsibilities under the terms of the lease –** for update
It was explained that Councillors had not yet met to discuss this.

RESOLVED:- to defer to the next meeting.

6 **Reports –** To receive the following reports
a) Centre Manager - Lewis Redmond gave a report and explained that the staff were waiting for the new swimming lesson programme to be delivered. The new ladies only swim session has been popular and another session will be added from January. A business plan has been

developed for the next 2-3 years which identifies ways to save costs, increase marketing and take the centre forward. Crowd funding for the new room is now live and if funding is successful it can be used to increase income through running courses and swim parties. It was explained that chemical testing of the pool was taking place 6 times a day along with regular weekly checks.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

b) WSLC Board Report – Edward Towers reported that demand for swimming lessons have reduced and this was attributed to the new pool in Whitchurch opening. As a result of the drop in numbers assistants in the water are now no longer needed for lessons so this will reduce staff costs for lessons. Edward explained that the Financial Director has resigned and the board needs to become more involved with the financial situation and find another finance director. Some of the day to day financial work will be devolved to staff leaving the board no longer overseeing day to day matters.
Member retention and membership conversion were discussed and the new till system will help to track this. The pool water has also been turned down by .5 degree to 28.5 degrees to reduce costs. This still makes it the warmest pool in the area.
A question was asked about whether compensation has been sought from SP Energy Networks for the cost incurred and the loss of revenue following the recent fire which was caused by a power supply issue. It was also suggested that a staff debrief takes place to learn what could be done differently should an incident of this nature occur in the future. All present agreed that this would be a useful exercise.

Cllr Broomhall left the meeting at 15.00

RESOLVED:- to note the report and to recommend that the next Directors meeting to consider submitting a compensation claim to SP Energy Networks to recoup lost revenue.

c) Financial Report – The financial report was discussed, it was explained that the cost of utilities had not reduced as the solar panels were still not being accounted for by British Gas, despite months of trying. A suggestion was made that Ofwat are contacted and possibly MP Helen Morgan the money is still not coming in from the feed in tariff.

Lewis Redmond left the meeting at 15.06

A general discussion took place on the financial situation of the pool and the projected loss for the current year. A suggestion was made that The Directors employ an external marketing to run a marketing campaign up until Christmas to try and increase membership.

RESOLVED:- to note the report and to recommend that the next Directors meeting to consider the benefits of an externally run marketing campaign.

7 **2026-27 Town Council Contribution** – to discuss
Considering the financial situation at the pool it was agreed that the contribution request be submitted earlier than usual to give the Town Council more time to discuss it.

<u>RESOLVED</u>:- that the contribution request be received by 19.11.25 in time for the November meeting of the Town Council.

8 **Information/Other Matters**
None raised

9 **Date, time of future meetings –** to note

<u>RESOLVED</u>:- to hold the next meeting on 21.1.26 at 14.00

Meeting ended 15.34

Chairman……………………