

Notes of a Meeting of Wem Swimming & Lifestyle Centre Liaison Group held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 14.00 in the Town Council Meeting Room, Wem Library

Present:- D Hill, M Meakin, G Soul, D Parry, P Glover, M Donaldson, E Towers, I Jamieson

Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk) K Creagh (WSLC)

- 1 **Apologies for absence** – To receive apologies for absence  
The following apologies were received P Johnson P Broomhall.  
In the absence of Cllr Broomhall
- 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 29.6.23.

**RESOLVED**:- to approve the minutes of the group meeting held on 29.6.23 which were duly signed by the chairman as a true record.

- 4 **Fees Increase** - to discuss  
It was explained that point 3.23.3 of the lease between WSLC and Wem Town Council states that price increases could only be made in September. It was explained that September 2023 increase was put back as the pool had been closed over the summer. However a price increase is needed due to a threefold increase in energy costs. In addition to this staffing costs have also increased due to the increase in the minimum wage and the need to ensure that the lifeguards are paid appropriately.

**RESOLVED**:- to recommend that

- due to extenuating circumstances in 2023 when the pool was closed for the liner fitting which resulted in the September price increase not going ahead, the Town Council accept the price increases outside the terms of the lease from 1.4.24.

- 5 **Work identified in structural report** – for update.

**RESOLVED**:- to recommend that any underspend from the 2023-24 swimming pool budget cost centre is earmarked for structural repairs during 2024, with the cleaning and repainting of the stanchions being the main priority for 2024.

- 6 **Energy Project** - to consider response ref VAT  
The result of the Sport England grant is awaited

**RESOLVED**:- to defer further discussion on this matter to a future Town Council meeting.

- 7 **Reports** – To receive the following reports

**a) Centre Manager**

Karen reported that membership numbers have increased significantly in February and new staff members have been recruited and now more swimming teachers are needed.

**RESOLVED:- to note the report.**

**b) WSLC Board Report**

Cllr Towers presented the board report and reported on the usage figures up to the end of January.

**RESOLVED:-to note the report.**

**c) Financial Report**

Marie provided a financial report for the centre and stated that a financial package was needed that would enable to pool to analyse usage data and make changes to offers and pricing structure.

It was explained that a loss of £42,000 was made in 2023 which was mainly due to costs during the pool closure, this loss was funded by reserves.

**RESOLVED:-to note the report.**

**8 Information/Other Matters**

Events – the idea of running a joint aquathon event in partnership with WSSA was suggested.

**9 Date, time and frequency of future meetings – to discuss**

**RESOLVED:-to hold meetings on the following dates in 2024**  
**June 19<sup>th</sup> September 11<sup>th</sup> December 11<sup>th</sup> at 14.00**

Meeting ended 15.00

Chairman.....