

Notes of a Meeting of Wem Swimming & Lifestyle Centre Liaison Group held on Wednesday 9th April 2025 at 14.00 in the Town Council Meeting Room, Wem Library

Present:- Cllrs P Broomhall (Chairman), D Parry, D Hill, G Soul, WSLC - E Towers, I Jamieson, M Donaldson, K Creagh.

Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk)

- 1 **Apologies for absence** – To receive apologies for absence.
None.
- 2 **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests** – To receive any disclosable pecuniary interests.
None.
- 3 **Minutes** – To approve as a correct record the notes of a meeting of this Group held on 12.2.25.

RESOLVED:- to approve the notes of the group meeting held on 12.2.25 which were duly signed by the chairman as a true record.

- 4 **Progress Report** - to discuss progress on the action plan (see attached)
The action plan was discussed and updates given on outstanding items. A discussion took place on the cost of a new air handling unit which could be in the region of £100,000. It was explained that if a new unit was installed then an oil boiler would not be needed.

RESOLVED:- that the Town Clerk research possible grants that could be applied for to finance this project.

- 5 **Pool Liner** - to discuss report and consider future management of the liner
The report was considered and the advice from the Centre Manager and Directors was that there would be no advantage in draining the pool due to a loss of revenue. It was reported that a new chemical reader was on order to ensure that the readings being recorded were accurate.
All present expressed disappointment at the findings of the report from the company who supplied it, although some confidence was found in the fact that there was no lasting damage to the life of the liner. The Centre Manager explained that only Duty Managers were permitted to hand dose the pool with chemicals and all had completed the appropriate training to carry out this task.

RESOLVED:-

- **That a quarterly written and pictorial record of the creasing and scale patches on the floor and sides of the liner will be recorded by pool staff to monitor the appearance of any further patches of scale. This report to be a standard item on the progress report for consideration at future Liaison Group meetings.**
- **The Clerk would seek a second opinion on the condition of the liner from another company.**

- 6 **Maintenance Responsibilities under the terms of the lease** – to discuss

Ian Jamieson presented this item he explained he had met with the Clerk to discuss areas of responsibility with regard to maintenance of plant and fixtures and fittings as the lease is not clear on certain items. This is also necessary due to the changes to the facility since the lease was signed as The Centre has had a new gym built along with the roof works and solar panels. It was explained that this report is being prepared and will be presented to a future meeting

A discussion took place on future costs associated with running the pool and the suggestion was made of the need to network with other community run pools nationally to identify best practice regarding finance and running.

RESOLVED:- That the Town Council would consider the report when it is available and report back to a future liaison group meeting. The board of directors would investigate the benefit of networking with other community run swimming pools.

7 Reports – To receive the following reports

a) Centre Manager – Karen explained that the staff were working on plans to create a small fitness room in the building in space that is used as a small staff room. It was agreed that before this goes ahead it would need permission from the Town Council so once plans were finalised it should be sent to the Town Council to consider in more detail.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

b) WSLC Board Report

The monthly usage figures presented by Cllr Towers were considered and a discussion took place on the impact that the new pool in Whitchurch was having on the facility.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

c) Financial Report

The Treasurer gave a verbal report regard the financial position of the centre. It was reported that it was anticipated that the centre will be able to break even by the end the first quarter. However as the new NI increases start in April, this will have a significant impact on the next quarter especially if usage of the facility declines following the opening of Whitchurch.

8 Information/Other Matters

The need for more promotion of the pool was discussed and suggestions were made about how offers could be created to increase usage. The suggestion of developing a crowdfunding campaign was also made as this could help fund part of the new air handling unit.

9 Date, time of future meetings – A meeting date was not set due to forthcoming Council elections in May. However the next meeting will be in July.

Meeting ended 15.40

Chairman.....