

Minutes of a Meeting of Wem Swimming & Lifestyle Centre Liaison Group held on Wednesday 17 October 2018 at 10 a.m. in the Eckford Suite, Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem.

Present:- Cllr Granger, Cllr Dodd, Cllr Broomhall, Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk)
Wem Swimming & Lifestyle Centre - M Adkins, C Mellings, P Moyse, K Creagh (General Manager).

1 Apologies for absence – To receive apologies for absence

RESOLVED:- to accept the following apologies for absence
Cllr Murray, Cllr Towers

2 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – To receive any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – none declared.

3 Minutes – To approve as a correct record the minutes of a meeting of this Group held on 27 June 2018.

RESOLVED:- to approve the minutes of this group held 27 June 2018 and they were duly signed as a true record

4 Progress Report on matters raised at previous meetings – to receive report

The following report was presented by Karen

Item	Progress
Ceiling Panels - changing rooms and foyer	Ian Jamieson is contacting Rob Smith, who has previously offered to donate panels he has at his business premises.
Replacement Lockers	The lockers for the gym and pool changing area are going to be sourced and ordered by Ian Jamieson.
Replacement Pool Cover	The pool cover has been delivered and is in use.
Legionnaires Inspection	The legionnaires inspection is all up to date.
New Heat Exchange Unit	The heat exchange unit has been given a temporary fix with a special coating to stop the leak. We are waiting for a quote to replace the unit, but as there are asbestos seals it will make it a bigger job. Once we have a quote we will pass it on to you.
Promotion of pool on Social Media	We use facebook to promote the pool. Cadi uses the Friends of Wem Pool account, and the staff use Wem Pool account. We use the site to share the timetable, changes to the timetable, progress on the build, new purchases, events such as the Triathlon charity car treasure hunt, Mayors charity events, to promote memberships and swimming lessons.

RESOLVED:- to recommend that the priority for the Town Council's maintenance expenditure budget 2018-19 is used to contribute towards the replacement heat pump.

5 Reports – To receive the following reports

a) Centre Manager – Karen presented the Centre Manager report and explained that there had been an increase in the number of people using the gym since its opening which was a very positive step. However, there is still a need to encourage more gym users.

A question was asked about a need to induct people and whether disclaimer notices are needed to be displayed. Karen stated that they would look into this in more detail.

It was reported that some new equipment is on order following requests from users and that the external signs are also going to be updated.

b) WSLC Board Report

Malcolm Adkins presented the board report which included an update on the purchase of new furniture and lockers.

He reported that rising oil prices are a concern and a discussion needs to take place about whether it is worth the cost of installing gas at the pool. In addition to this an investment in LED lighting would also reduce electricity costs in the long term.

A general discussion took place on future long term plans for the pool.

Phil Moyses left the meeting at 10.45

c) Financial Report

Chris Mellings presented the financial report and outlined areas where savings had been made over the year. He explained that there was a need to increase reserves to enable the pool to cope with any circumstances which would require the pool to close temporarily as staff would still need paying etc.

6 Information/Other Matters

a) External Painting – for discussion

A discussion took place on the need for permission to paint the external part of the building to improve its appearance.

Malcolm asked if there was a way that minor maintenance decisions could be speeded up so that they did not have to go to full council for approval. The Clerk explained that if a matter was urgent it was possible to seek approval via the emergency scheme of delegation.

RESOLVED:- to recommend approval for the painting as per the terms of the lease.

b) 2019-20 Town Council Contribution – for discussion. It was explained that as part of the 2019-20 budget process the Town Council was holding discussions with organisations that it provides large financial contributions to. A discussion took place whether it would be better for the WSLC contribution be agreed to cover a 3 year period to provide more financial stability for board members. The Clerk explained that due to continued financial pressures on the Town Council, councillors may have to consider reducing the amount that the Town Council is able to contribute to the running of the pool slightly. However

the Town Council could be asked to consider a proposal that any budget saving from a reduction in the financial contribution to the pool is deposited in the Bulmer Cottage Fund account (which is ring fenced for the swimming pool and Butler Sports Centre). This would help to ensure that there are funds available for large scale infrastructure repairs that may be required in the future. It was recognised that the relationship between the Town Council and WSLC was unique as the pool is owned by the Town Council. Board members stated that it was important not to jeopardise the financial stability of the centre and undermine all the voluntary effort that goes into overseeing the management of the pool by reducing the annual contribution to a level where it would not be sustainable to run the pool. Chris Mellings highlighted that the annual contribution had not increased in the last 3 years which amounted to a reduction in real terms as all other prices had gone up. It was agreed that the board would consider the amount of contribution required for 2019-20 and whether they would prefer a 3 year agreement at its next meeting and report back to the next meeting of this group which would be held before the Town Council's annual budget meeting in January 2019

RESOLVED:- to note the discussions.

Cllr Dodd left the meeting at 11.10

Pool valuation – The Clerk explained that the pool would need to be revalued for insurance purposes now that the gym extension was complete, and this was going to cost in the region of £300. Chris Mellings explained that WSLC would consider covering the cost of this at its next board meeting.

RESOLVED:- to note.

Streetsweeper Trolley – The Clerk reported that the streetsweeper had asked whether he could leave his trolley by the Groundsman's shed unfortunately this was not possible as the compound is locked but it had been suggested that there was space for him to park it in the small compound by the swimming pool.

RESOLVED:- to approve as long as the trolley does not obstruct any emergency exit route.

Meeting ended 11.15

Chairman.....