

Community Leisure Working Party

held at Ryedale House, Malton
on Tuesday 7 October 2008

Present

Councillors Mrs Cowling (in the Chair), Mrs De Wend Fenton, Hemesley and Jackson

In attendance

Mr J Wardby - Vice Chairman of Community Leisure Board
Mrs J Spenceley - Community Leisure Limited
Mr D Hannah - Matrix Consultants
Mrs L Mills - Community Leisure Limited

Mrs L Carter, C Chatten, P Cresswell, Mrs J Holmes, P Long, S Richmond and D Summers

Minutes

CLWP.78 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Arnold and Mrs Keal and Mr A Evans, Chairman of the Community Leisure Board.

CLWP.79 Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting of the Community Leisure Working Party held on 12 August 2008 were presented (previously circulated).

With reference to Minute No. CLWP.73 (Climbing Wall Update), Mr Hannah clarified that he was obtaining an insurance quotation for the operation of the climbing wall and not insurance cover as stated in the minute. It was agreed that the minute be amended accordingly.

Resolved

That the minutes of the last meeting of the Community Leisure Working Party held on 12 August 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to Minute No. CLWP.73 (Climbing Wall Update) being amended in the first line of the preamble by the deletion of the words 'insurance cover' and the substitution of 'an insurance quotation'.

CLWP.80 Urgent Business

The Chairman reported that there were two items to be considered as a matter of urgency.

CLWP.81 Declarations of Interest

In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct the following declarations of interest were received:

Councillor Hemesley declared a personal interest in all items as a Member of the Community Leisure Management Board.

Councillor Mrs De Wend Fenton declared a personal interest in item 5 - Joint Use Agreement Lady Lumley's School - as her son was a pupil at Lady Lumley's School.

CLWP.82 Dual Use Agreement - Lady Lumley's School

Mr Hannah reported that he was currently carrying out investigations into the contractual arrangements relating to the dual use agreement for the operation of the sports facilities at Lady Lumley's School. Mr Hannah circulated a briefing note, which outlined the investigations and findings to date, particularly in respect of the recharges structure for business rates and the position with regard to VAT. In addition, the briefing note included a table, which summarised the potential revised position with regard to the payment of VAT. Community Leisure Limited had appointed Baker Tilley Audit LLP to investigate the VAT situation on their behalf. Mr Hannah reported that he hoped to be in a position to submit a further report to the Working Party's next meeting.

The District Council representatives expressed concern regarding the situation and were of the opinion that the circumstances should be drawn to the attention of the Council Solicitor and the Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee.

Resolved

That report be noted and that the Council Solicitor and the Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee be informed of the position.

CLWP.83 Quest Update

Mr Hannah reported that CLL was continuing to work towards QUEST accreditation, details of the current position were given in the Briefing Note. CLL were working as quickly as possible but slow progress was being made given the amount of work to be undertaken, not least in the collation of the various policies and procedures.

Mr Hannah reported that there were other aspects such as compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act requirements that presented barriers to progress. The Council's Property Services Manager reported that Disability Discrimination Act Audits had been undertaken in respect of the Ryedale and Derwent Pools. Ryedale Pool was fully DDA compliant. With the exception of the payment kiosk, Derwent Pool was also DDA compliant.

Mr Hannah confirmed that a Quest Accreditation Action Plan had been prepared. The Chairman requested that the Council's Economy & Housing Manager be provided with a copy of the Plan.

CLWP.84 VAT Update (Management Fee)

Mr Hannah reported for information that given the outstanding issues relating to VAT, as outlined in Minute CLWP.82 above, discussions on any potential review of the existing grant based payment system had been postponed. Community Leisure Limited had previously suggested that investigations be undertaken into a potential review of the basis on which CLL was funded by the Council, with a view to changing to a management fee based system.

CLWP.85 Community Leisure Limited Review

Members were reminded that at the last meeting of the Working Party a Task Group comprising Councillors Mrs Arnold, Mrs De Wend Fenton and Mrs Keal had been established to consider the CLL Review. A meeting of the Task Group was to be arranged and the Chairman requested that Mr Hannah be informed of the date.

CLWP.86 NRLC Climbing Wall Courses

Mr Hannah reported for information that as requested at the last meeting of the Working Party arrangements had been put in place for public use of the climbing wall to be undertaken on a trial basis. Mr Paul Lister, the school instructor, was to operate the public sessions and would use his own insurance cover. The sessions were to be advertised as requested by the Working Party and it was suggested that this could also be done through the Ryedale News. A progress report was to be submitted to a future meeting of the Working Party.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

CLWP.87 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Working Party be held on Monday 17 November 2008 at 5.30 pm.

CLWP.88 **Urgent Business**

The Chairman reported that by virtue of Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 the following three items were to be dealt with as a matter of urgency as they were considered to be urgent.

1. E-Booking

With reference to Minute No. CLWP.70 (E-Booking) Mr Hannah reported that he had contacted the Council's ICT Manager as arranged to discuss the action to be taken with regard to e-booking. The Working Party would be kept informed of progress.

2. Government's Free Swimming Programme

The Chairman reported that an Extraordinary meeting of the Council was to be held on 13 October 2008 to consider the action to be taken with regard to the free swimming programme for under 16s. The Chairman suggested that Community Leisure's views be reported to Council. The Economy & Community Services Manager clarified that the free swimming programme did not provide for free swimming lessons, but provided free-entry to swimming pools.

Mr Hannah reported on the services already provided by CLL with regard to swimming sessions. In particular Mr Hannah reported that Community Leisure had agreed to cover the cost of 5 free swimming lessons to encourage new over 60's customers. CLL had also made a number of improvements to children's swimming lessons by reducing class sizes from 10 to 8, introduced discounts for the third and fourth child in a family enrolling for the swimming scheme, plus improvements to booster classes to help children progress through the levels. Mr Hannah agreed to email details to Working Members of the support provided.

3. Ryedale Pool, Pickering

The Property Manager reported on the works to be carried out at Ryedale Pool relating to the air extract system in the pool hall, the re-grouting of the pool tank and the re-coating of the pool hall ceiling. Funding for the various works had been allocated within the capital programme. Each of the schemes would entail the closure of the pool whilst the work was undertaken. Every effort was being taken to bring the schemes together so that they could all be carried out within the same closure period, which it was anticipated could be in December. The Working Party would be informed of progress.