

Minutes of the Leisure Centre Committee Meeting held on 4 October 2023
at 7.30 pm at the Parish Office

Present: Cllrs J Armstrong, S Berlyn (Chairman), A Chapman, P Churchouse, G Chapman, M Hessian and N Orange

In attendance: M Harper (Clerk), D Purser (Leisure Centre Manager), and two representatives from Lifestyle Fitness, Mr T Curtis (Chairman) and S Pearce

Cllr Berlyn introduced Mr Curtis and Mr Pearce from Lifestyle Fitness, the Leisure Centre gym partners

23/24.62 Apologies for absence

Cllr L Naggs

23/24.63 Declarations of Interest

Members are required to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they know they may have in items of business on the meeting's agenda. They are reminded that they will need to repeat their declaration at the appropriate point in the meeting and leave the room if the interest is a prejudicial one. Unforeseen interests must be declared similarly at the appropriate time.

There were no declarations of interest.

23/24.64 Public Question Time

Members of the public are invited to address the Council, give their views and question the Council on issues on this agenda, or raise issues for future consideration (at the discretion of the Chairman). Members of the public may not take part in the Council meeting itself. At the close of this item members of the public will no longer be permitted to address the Council unless invited to do so by the Chairman. The session will last for a maximum of 15 minutes with any individual contribution lasting a maximum of 5 minutes. Members of the public should address their representation through the Chairman of the meeting.

There were no questions from the public

23/24.65 To approve Minutes of the Leisure Centre Committee meeting held 12 September 2023

RESOLVED: the minutes of the Leisure Centre Committee meeting held on 12 September 2023 be approved and signed as a true record

23/24.66 Actions for the Minutes⁴

This item was deferred

23/24.67 Concerns raised by a member of the public

Members considered the following issues raised by a member of the public:

It had been previously discussed and agreed that as residents were contributing to the Leisure Centre from the precept and that outside members brought additional funding to the Centre and the village that the Social Membership Fee would be abolished. However following discussion, it was agreed that the issue of membership fees would be discussed at the next meeting of the Leisure Centre Committee. With regard to the use of the Centre toilets by the general public it was felt that it was important that there were toilets available to visitors to Danbury and there was limited access to public toilets in the village. In respect of cleanliness the Leisure Centre Manager was aware and was in discussions with the cleaning company, and the concerns raised regarding the security of changing rooms and the locking of the carpark at Mayes Lane had been addressed previously by the Clerk.

It was agreed that the Clerk and Chairman would compose a response and circulate it to members.

RESOLVED: that a discussion be held on membership at the next meeting, proposed by Cllr Hessian and seconded by Cllr Orange, agreed

The next agenda items were taken in the following order:

23/24.68 2023/24 Classes

The class analysis figures for the period 1 April to 30 September were noted

23/24.69 2023/24 Finance

23/24.69.1 The finances from 1 April to 30 September were noted

23/24.69.2 The Clerk updated Members on the meeting held with the VAT advisor and noted that there were some changes that needed to be implemented with regard to the Out of Scope and Exempt VAT and that the advice regarding the building works was to refurbish the bar area as a separate project to the kitchen/Dawson Suite and reception due to the different VAT regimes applicable.

23/24.70 Discussion with Lifestyle Fitness

Mr Curtis noted that it was good to see the progress that the Parish Council had made with the Leisure Centre and the Consultation Room was a great addition. He advised that additional bikes and other assistance would be available from Lifestyle Fitness and noted that unfortunately all the centres they were involved with had been affected by the cost-of-living crisis.

CLlr Berlyn thanked the Clerk, the Leisure Centre Manager and all the staff for their hard work

Mr Curtis and Mr Pearce left the meeting

23/24.71 Proposed Refurbishment Works

Following discussion on the benefits and cost of refurbishing the kitchen it was agreed that the specification would be for a high quality 'village hall' facility as opposed to a fully commercial kitchen.

23/24.72 Membership Update

This was deferred

23/24.73 Markets

The Clerk provided an update on the Halloween Market and noted that it may be necessary to cancel the dog show due to lack of entries and that another activity would be considered for the Sports Hall

23/24.74 Matters for Report (for information only)

There were no matters for report

23/24.75 Dates of next meeting

Wednesday 1 November 2023 at 7.30pm

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.06pm

Chairman

Date