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COMMUNITY

Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 16 October 2014 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Matlock at 6.00pm

PRESENT

Councillor Jennifer Bower - In the Chair

Councillors Jacque Bevan, Richard Bright, Sue Burfoot, Tom Donnelly, Tony Millward, Mike Ratcliffe, Lewis Rose OBE, Andrew Statham, Geoff Stevens, MBE, Jacquie Stevens, Colin Swindell, Philippa Tilbrook, Judith Twigg, Jo Wild.

Sandra Lamb (Head of Corporate Services), Rob Cogings (Head of Housing), Ashley Watts (Head of Community Development) and Jackie Cullen (Committee Assistant).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Burton. There were no substitute members.

162/14 – MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Geoff Stevens, MBE, seconded by Councillor Tony Millward and

RESOLVED

(unanimously)

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Committee held on 10 July 2014 be approved as a correct record.

The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

163/14 – ITEM 6 – LEISURE REVIEW: UPDATE ON STAGE TWO

Councillor Richard Bright arrived at 6.15pm during discussion of this item.

The Committee considered a report that outlined progress with the Leisure Services Review and in particular considered the need for an external consultant to assist in carrying out an appraisal of the options for the future management of the service.

The Community Committee previously received a report on the 16th January 2014 which set out the review process and the methodology for carrying out a review of the Leisure Service. A second report on the outcomes of the first stage of the review was considered

by the Community Committee on 10 July 2014, which identified a number of opportunities to improve the service whilst delivering cost savings.

The scope of the Leisure Review was outlined in the report.

During the review process a number of issues and initiatives had been identified, as detailed in the report. The longer term objective of the review would concentrate on identifying the most appropriate management arrangements going forward.

The final options appraisal document would assess the financial implications and feasibility of the alternative management options currently available, in order to determine the most effective choice for Derbyshire Dales in line with the District Council's local priorities and local needs.

The work was likely to take 6 to 9 months to complete, and a further report would be back to a future Committee during summer next year.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose, OBE, seconded by Councillor Judith Twigg and

RESOLVED

1. That the progress made so far and the continuing work on the Leisure Services Review be noted
2. That the the appointment of external consultants to carry out an options appraisal to assist in determining the most appropriate model for managing the Leisure Services in the future, to be funded from the invest to save reserve, be approved
3. That a further report is brought for the consideration of a future Committee, when the options appraisal has been completed.

Voting:	14
For	0
Against	1
Abstentions	

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

164/14 – ITEM 7 – HOUSING SERVICES REVIEW

The Committee considered a report that set out the proposed approach to the Service Review of the Community Housing Team. It set out the suggested scope of the review and recommended the methodology that should be followed in bringing the review to a conclusion.

The issues the review would consider were listed in the report, and in the short term it was intended to identify further opportunities to improve the service whilst delivering cost savings. The medium to longer term objectives of the review were to answer the questions raised by the Peer Challenge concerning capital resources and reflect on the alternative delivery options available to the District Council.

An Initial Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) of the draft Housing Strategy had been undertaken.

The Committee placed on record their thanks to the Community Housing Team for their comprehensive report and work undertaken thus far.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose, OBE, seconded by Councillor Mike Ratcliffe and

RESOLVED 1. That the scope and methodology of the review outlined in the
(unanimously) report be approved.

165/14 – ITEM 8 – ASHBOURNE LEISURE CENTRE: UPDATE

The Committee considered a report that outlined the progress of the repair and improvement programme at Ashbourne Leisure Centre.

In April 2013, the District Council was informed by Sport England that it had been successful in its application for £175,000 in external funding to help improve the changing facilities at Ashbourne Leisure Centre. This work was completed on 20 July and the new changing village was due to be opened to the general public on 5 August 2014. However, on Saturday 26 July, a fire caused significant damage to the Leisure Centre's plant room and smoke damage to other areas in the building, including the new changing village.

An application to Derbyshire Sport for funding via the Aiming High Fund for £60,000 to develop the Fitness Suite at Ashbourne Leisure Centre was successful, with a condition that the work must be completed by the end of December 2014. The funding would fully cover the costs for extending and refurbishing the gym, enabling the leisure centre to maximise its revenue capacity and also improve access and participation for disabled users through the Inclusive Fitness Initiative (IFI), a national programme which offered disabled people more choice and opportunities to enjoy the benefits of physical activity.

A significant programme of decontamination was required to the whole changing village and pool ventilation plant before the main repair and replacement work to address the fire damage to the plant room could begin, resulting in a delay of the reopening of the pool until early in the New Year.

In the interim, a temporary gym would be assembled at the leisure centre, with reduced rates for this period. Regular updates would be posted on the District Council's website and social media pages, as well as progress updates within the Leisure Centre itself.

It was moved by Councillor Tony Millward, seconded by Councillor Tom Donnelly and

RESOLVED 1. That the progress made so far, the work required and timescales
(unanimously) involved be noted.

MEETING CLOSED 7.10PM

CHAIRMAN