

**Minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee for Leisure and
Community held on 14 January 2015 from
7:00 p.m. to 8:32 p.m.**

Present: Jacqui Landriani (Chairman)
Dick Sweatman* (Vice Chairman)

Richard Bates	Cherry Catharine	David Dorking*
Margaret Belsey	Rod Clarke	Sue Hatton*
Liz Bennett	Phillip Coote	Anne Jones, MBE
Pete Bradbury	Mims Davies*	Natalie March*
		Mandy Thomas-Atkin

* Absent

Also Present (as an appointed substitute): Councillor Dumbovic

Also Present: Councillor Moore, Councillor Snowling, Councillor Wall, Councillor Webster and Councillor Edward Belsey

**24. SUBSTITUTES AT MEETINGS OF COMMITTEE – COUNCIL PROCEDURE
RULE 4**

The Committee noted that Councillor Dumbovic had replaced Councillor Hatton for the duration of the meeting.

25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Dorking, Hatton and March.

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Bradbury declared a personal interest in item 7 as he is associated with Staplefield Cricket Club.

27. MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 November were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

28. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

29. LEISURE CONTRACT UPDATE

Mark Fisher, Head of Leisure & Sustainability, introduced the report as an update of the first 6 months of the Leisure Management Contract to Places for People. He explained that the new contract had provided the Council with significant savings and capital investment at the centres. He focussed on the £2m worth of improvement that has been completed across the leisure centres including the addition and extension of gyms, studio facilities, café areas and reception areas. Furthermore, he highlighted some of the improvements that had been made to services and some of the

challenges that were successfully resolved during the hand-over and the positive customer reaction at the end of the first 6 months.

In response to a member question regarding gym facilities, Mark Fisher stated that additional equipment had been provided which had both increased and enhanced the service offer at the facilities.

Another member asked a question regarding the issues that had arisen during the handover. The Cabinet Member responded to this by saying that she was both confident and proud of the services provided by the council reflected in the report. She felt that the service had dealt with any issues presented to them efficiently and the customer satisfaction was represented by the growing membership. A number of members praised the working relationship between the officers and themselves and congratulated the council on the successful work it has undertaken.

As there were no other questions, the Chairman took Members to the report's recommendation, which was agreed.

RESOLVED

That the committee noted the contents of this report.

30. PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY 2015-31

Mark Fisher explained that the Mid Sussex Leisure and Cultural Strategy recommended that the Council prepared a playing pitch strategy to assist with the planning for sports pitches in response to projected housing increases. The strategy covers the 8 organised outdoor sports (bowls, cricket, football, hockey, netball, rugby, stoolball and tennis)

Elaine Clarke, Community Leisure Officer, introduced the report by stating how the council had been using guidance provided by Sport England in order to develop the strategy effectively. She went on to say how the council had analysed the supply and demand of playing pitches throughout the area. This was done by monitoring the number of teams in the area, the number of home games each team plays and at what time they play.

One member expressed their concern at the charges of pitches, stating that they should be kept as low as possible. David Harper, Business Unit Leader - Waste & Outdoor Services, responded to this by ensuring this was considered in the annual review of pitch charges.

Several members raised their approval about the plans for the Fairfield Recreation Ground within the report and asked whether there was any further progress on these plans. David Harper stated that there were already plans to replace changing facilities at Fairfield.

Members also raised questions about other sports such as Bowls, Netball and Athletics. David Harper responded to a query about how the council were attempting to encourage people, especially young, to participate in these sports and stated that discount schemes had been introduced for specific sports in order to encourage participation.

As there were no further questions, the Chairman took Members to the report's recommendations, which were agreed.

RESOLVED

That:-

- (1) the Committee endorse the Playing Pitch Strategy to Cabinet; and
- (2) the process for adoption, outlined in paragraph 17-19 of the report be noted.

31. WASTE REGULATIONS – RECYCLING QUALITY COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENTS

Mark Fisher explained that recycling quality had been an issue which this Council had given time and resources to understand and address. He explained that the arrangements for managing waste within the Partnership were set down in a memorandum of understanding overseen by the Inter Authority Waste Group, which comprises the Portfolio Members across the waste collection and the waste disposal authority.

David Harper introduced the report by praising the long term waste partnership first created in 2004. He went on to emphasise the importance of using shared resources with partners and prioritising the collection of plastics as a target material.

One member asked what procedures had been put in place in order to increase the amount of waste the council recycles. This was responded to by David Harper who cited both contract changes with West Sussex Country Council and the increase in storage capacity which he hopes will expand further in the future.

The members were in agreement that they supported these plans and appreciated the steps taken to compare operations with other authorities across the country in the attempt to improve the service as much as possible.

As there were no further questions, the Chairman took Members to the report's recommendations, which were agreed.

RESOLVED

That the findings of the West Sussex Waste Partnership Regulation 13 assessment of Mid Sussex District Council's compliance meet the new Waste Regulations (England & Wales) 2011 (amended 2012). The assessment concludes that no change is required at this time.

32. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR LEISURE AND COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15

The Chairman introduced the report setting out the proposed programme for the rest of the year. One question was raised regarding the Draft Housing Strategy 2015-20 and the treatment of homeless people by the council. It was raised that homeless people should not be sent far away and that there is a duty of Health & Well-Being to these people. The chairman appreciated these comments and noted them for the Draft Housing Strategy.

RESOLVED

That the Committee's Work Programme for the remainder of 2014/15 be noted.

Chairman