

**Minutes of a meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held at the Oakwood Centre  
on Tuesday 25 January 2022 at 7:00 pm**

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**Present:** *Councillors D. Bragg (Chairman); N. Al-Sanjari; K. Gilder; A. Heap;  
R. Horskins; V. Lewis;*

**Officers present:** *M. Filmore, Committee Officer*

**Also present:** *Cllr K. Baker  
1 member of the public*

29. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B. Rowland and A. Swaddle, as well as from Kevin Murray (Deputy Town Clerk) and Ed Whitesmith (Leisure Services Manager).

The Chairman apologised for the need to cancel the scheduled meeting on Tuesday 18 January due to Covid related officer absences.

30. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

31. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 NOVEMBER 2021**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ That the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting of 16 November 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

32. **BUDGETARY CONTROL**

Members reviewed the Budgetary Control report and

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note Report No. LS 1/22.

33. **WOODFORD PARK LEISURE CENTRE, SPORTS DEVELOPMENT AND ACTIVITIES**

Members noted that, in the absence of both the Leisure Services Manager and the Deputy Town Clerk, should members have any questions in relation to reports then they should submit these directly via email. Questions and answers will then be circulated to all members via email.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note Report No. LS 2/22.

34. **PARKS AND BUILDINGS**

The Chairman noted that the member of the public in attendance had discussed a number of questions with regards to the Woodford Park Destination Play Area project prior to the meeting. The Chairman confirmed that he would provide the individual with a written response to his queries after the meeting.

*[Committee Officer Note: The individual handed a written set of 3 questions to the Committee Officer after the meeting which was handed to the Chairman.]*

Members noted that they would like to publicise images and details of the recent vandalism which took place to the fencing at Malone Park to raise awareness of this with residents.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note Report No. LS 3/22.
- ◆ To publicise the vandalism which took place at Malone Park.

35. **CHARGES 2022/23**

Members noted that the highest increase in charges tended to be for OAPs, however it was also noted that competitors were charging more for the same services.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note Report No. LS 4/22.
- ◆ To recommend that the proposed charges for 2022/23, as set out in the Budget Appendix, be approved.

Voting: For: 2 Against: 2 Abstentions: 0

Following the equality of votes, the Chairman provided a casting vote in favour of the proposed charges.

36. **REVISED ESTIMATES 2021/22**

Members noted that the year-end estimates seemed to be lower than previous. Particular Woodford Park expenditure had been estimated at £62K between January and March 2022, whereas between the same period in 2021 expenditure was £85k, and in 2020 it was £107k. It was agreed that the Deputy Town Clerk would be asked to provide all Councillors with a written explanation of this after the meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note Report No. LS 5/22.
- ◆ To recommend that the Revised Budget Estimates for 2021/22, as set out in the Budget Appendix, be approved.

Voting: For: 3 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1

37. **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2022/23**

A concern was raised about the budgeted expenditure, with members noting that the Strategy & Resources Committee's budget had increased by 6% since 2019/20, whereas the Leisure Services Committee's budget had decreased by 4% in the same period. The Chairman commented that lots of money had been spent on certain items over the last couple of years.

Councillor R. Horskins entered the meeting.

Councillor Baker provided an explanation on the increase in the Strategy & Resources Committee's budget, stating that the capital project programme had not taken place for the past couple of years due to the pandemic, but projects were being planned for 2022/23.

Councillor Heap proposed, seconded by Councillor Al-Sanjari, that the proposed Youth Services budget be increased from £34k to £40k. Councillor Heap noted that this budget had not increased in the last few years and, with the new Youth Services Service Level Agreement (SLA) due to be implemented this year, increasing the budget would show the Council's intent and commitment to Youth Services.

Members noted that the Youth Services budget is split over three projects; £26k is assigned to the SLA, £3k is in a projects fund, and £5k is assigned to Youth Survey. It was noted that the projects fund was rarely spent.

Members also noted that the SLA was yet to be put in place and that, depending on the outcome of the tendering process, additional funds could be considered later in the year were they to be required to provide the desired service.

Following a vote it was:

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ That the proposal to increase the Youth Services budget from £34k to £40k be defeated.

Voting: For: 2 Against: 3 Abstentions: 0

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note Report No. LS 6/22.
- ◆ To recommend that the Budget Estimates for 2022/23, as set out in the Budget Appendix, be approved.

Voting: For: 3 Against: 0 Abstentions: 2

38. **TENNIS FACILITIES IN WOODLEY**

The Chairman detailed a request received from a resident that the Town Council consider applying for newly announced funding, being made available from the Government and the Lawn Tennis Association, to improve the tennis facilities in Woodley. Members noted that specific details regarding the delivery of the funding had yet to be published by the Government.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To reconsider this item once details have been announced by the Government regarding the delivery of the funding.

39. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no suggestions for future agenda items.

40. **PUBLICITY AND WEBSITE**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To publish notices at Malone Park and Wheble Park reminding dog owners to pick up dog mess.

The meeting closed at 7:40 pm