

**CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Special meeting of COUNCIL held in The Council Office, 44 Old Street, Clevedon at 7.30pm on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

**PRESENT:** Chairman – Cllr G. Watkins  
 Councillors C. Blades, J. Cook, C. Francis-Pester, J. Geldart, S. Hale, C B. Hatch, J. Middleton, A. Shopland, D. Shopland, J. West.  
 Town Clerk - Ms P Heath; Deputy Town Clerk – Mrs I Johnson, Deputy Town Clerk  
 North Somerset Invited guests, Mr M Jackson Chief Executive NSC, Mr R. Currie Leisure & Culture Client Manager  
 Members of the Public 11; Press 1,

**7.30pm**      **INFORMAL BUSINESS**

The Chairman welcomed the invited representatives from North Somerset Council to discuss Strode Road Leisure centre. Mr Michael Jackson the NSC Chief Executive Officer explained that due to the financial cut backs NSC were reviewing their approach to the provision and funding of Leisure services. Currently all leisure services are subsidies and the intention is to work towards a zero subsidy by investing in the facilities to produce a more commercially based funding stream. He confirmed that there are NO plans to close the Strode Road Centre.

**Public Session**

**A representative of Clevedon Swimming Club**

1. Are there any plans to reintroduce regular Strode Road User Group meetings? This would provide a useful way for keeping users informed and addressing any problems?

Mr Jackson responded explaining that there had been several attempts to set up a user's group meeting but there were difficulties in getting a mutually convenient date for all parties involved.

2. Pool View Camera. When would these be implemented and what information will be available to the swimming club in respect of filming children underwater?

Mr Jackson responded explaining that the Cameras are there to assist the lifeguards and not replace them. It is a policy that has been approved nationally. Mr Jackson spoke of the difficulty in recruiting lifeguards and this technology will assist them to keep users safe. The swimming club were asked to contact Mr Currie directly to obtain the information they need concerning the operation of the cameras.

3. Has NSC approved the new swimming schedule for the swim academy which are looking to close the pool to the public for 2 hours Mon, Wed, Fri evenings and Sat morning

Mr Jackson responded explaining that the swim academy schedule has not formally been agreed by NSC but the commercialising of the swimming lessons will raise funds.

**FORMAL BUSINESS****16/625 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors M. Harriott (family commitment), L. Little (illness), J. Norton-Sealey (illness) **RESOLVED:** That Council **ACCEPTS** the apologies and reasons given for absence.

**16/626 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Hatch and Cllr Cook declared a personal interest as a user of the Leisure Centre

**16/627 DISCUSS WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL****16.627.1 Following the wet room renovations what are the current and short term maintenance plans for the Centre.**

It was explained that there were still some issues in respect of the air handling system which is still not working correctly. The contract to replace the unit is currently out to tender.

**16.627.2 What are the long term maintenance plans for the centre?**

It was explained that the overall maintenance is the responsibility of the contractor and forms part of the contract.

**16.627.3 What provisions have been made for the renewal/replacement of the building when it reaches the end of its current life?**

It was explained that the building with regular maintenance and the planned investment it will be viable for many years.

**16.627.4 What plans are being considered to increase the revenue of the building?**

It was explained that much of this was still commercially sensitive as it forms part of the contract discussions. There is advance work on making the centre more commercially viable.

**16.627.5** There followed a discussion between Councillors and the officers from NSC.

- Strode Leisure User Group – it was agreed to set a date and publicise the meeting and not try and coordinate diaries.
- Swim Academy – concern was expressed at the lost hours for public usage but understood the need for funding. It was noted that as the academy was aimed at school age children there was limited times they could attend and the schedule was based on this.
- Maintenance & Monitoring – the day to day work was done by staff at the centre through the contractor; it was felt that the User Group could be a vital way of keeping users informed and highlighting any day to day issues.

- Investment – it was confirmed that the investment would be from within the NSC structure and budgets and not from external investors requiring control of the facility. It was noted that the Town Council had assisted in obtaining the funding to build the centre and had an interest in the buildings management.
- Equipment repairs – in response to points raised it was noted that the contractor was responsible for the repair and maintenance of the gym equipment and if it is not being done in a timely fashion then NSC would need to discuss the issues with the contractor. The pool cameras were installed by the contractor at their expense and cost approximately £32k. again members were informed the cameras aid the lifeguards and do not replace them.
- Contract time line – the current contract is due to end in April 2017, negotiations and discussions are in an advance state. Should anything prevent the contract being agreed then NSC will go out to the market for another contractor.
- Area Costings – members asked for a breakdown of costings over the centre and details of the profit by department. They were informed that the centre works as a whole but there are higher cost expenditure on the swimming pool than income from swimmers; this is offset from other areas.

Mr Jackson thanked the Council for the opportunity to talk about the centre and he had taken on board the need for greater communication both with Clevedon Town Council and the general public.

Meeting closed at 8.05 pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN.....DATE.....