

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CULTURE AND SPORT POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 15 MARCH 2011 AT 3.30 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Bennett, Mrs D.J. (Chairman)

Jones, R. (Vice-Chairman)

Davis, Mrs. M.A.

Mitchell, C.

Green, M.R.

Sutton, Mrs. H.M.

Grocott, M.R.

Whitehouse, Mrs. L.

18. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor F.W.C. Allen

19. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

There were no Declarations of Interests.

20. Minutes

AGREED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2011 be approved as a correct record.

Arising from the Minutes Members asked for an update on the Playbuilder application for the Bevan Lee Site. The Corporate Director advised that since the last meeting Officers had met with Graham Hunt, Community Partnerships Officer to discuss alternative funding opportunities and one bid had been submitted.

21. Quarter 3 Performance Report

The Corporate Director explained that Planning consent for the Artificial Turf Pitch at Cardinal Griffin had now been granted with operating hours until 10.00pm in Year 1. Following the concerns raised by residents in Old Penkridge Road regarding lighting and noise there was a condition that the operating hours in Year 2 would be reduced to 8.30pm. There was a facility to request the Planning Control Committee to consider extending the operating hours to 10.00pm in Year 2 but this would depend upon there being no issues or concerns in Year 1. He confirmed that the ATP would be available for both school and community use.

He explained that the delivery of the project was dependent upon the funding from the Football Foundation. The Football Foundation had considered the bid and had been made aware that

Planning consent had been granted. The APT facility was one of their key priorities and it was anticipated that a decision would be made in June. Officers would continue to work with Cardinal Griffin School, Staffordshire County Council and Birmingham Diocese to move the project forward.

A Member asked for an update on the position regarding the ATP at Asda. The Corporate Director advised that there were unresolved issues surrounding the £500,000 of S106 monies for the APT in relation to the Asda development. However, a meeting between Asda and the Council would take place shortly in an attempt to resolve these issues.

The Corporate Director then referred to the Chase Leisure Centre Construction Scheme and advised Members that J.F. Tomlinson had been selected as the preferred Design and Build Contractor for the modernisation of the Chase Leisure Centre. The Contractor had won the tender on both price and quality and was also the Contractor selected to build Rugeley Swimming Pool in 2008.

He explained that discussions had taken place with the Contractor regarding the pool closure and it had been agreed that the pool would remain open during the Easter half term. The last day the pool would be open to the public would be Sunday 24 April 2011. The formal handover and official start date on site would be 26 April 2011. The anticipated completion date was 20 July 2012 which would link in with the Olympic Opening Ceremony which was to be held on 27 July 2012.

The Director advised that the closure of the pool would have an impact on the staff. However, none of the permanent contracted staff would be made redundant (subject to flexibility in terms of location and rota's). The transition plan agreed with the Trade Unions aimed to transfer staff to Rugeley Swimming Pool or alternatively, redeploy staff at the Chase Leisure Centre gym. The biggest impact would be on the casual staff as there would be a very low requirement for casual staff. Discussions were on going with the Trade Unions regarding the staffing issues and it was anticipated that all affected staff would receive a letter by 31 March 2011 confirming the redeployment arrangements.

He confirmed that a letter would be sent to nearby residents to make them aware that the Leisure Centre would become a construction site. Further letters would be sent to residents to update them throughout the scheme. He also confirmed that a section of the Leisure Centre car park would be used to store equipment, portacabins and temporary toilets and there would also be lorry deliveries to the site.

Members noted that the Sports Hall would still be available for the Count for the May Elections and the three party Leaders had been notified accordingly.

Councillor Grocott advised that discussions had taken place with David Moorcroft from the Olympic Committee and it was hopeful that there would be some form of Olympic bunting displayed outside the Leisure Centre when it re-opened in July 2012.

He then referred Members to the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 January 2011. He commented that although a letter had been sent in February advising Schools of the proposed pool closure a further letter would be sent advising them of the revised closure date. He commented that the County Council Swimming Manager was hopeful that a number of the Primary School swimming lessons could be accommodated at Rugeley Swimming Pool. Additionally, the use of the High Schools pools was also being considered.

The Director then referred to the 3rd Party Procurement Process and advised that a report was being considered by Cabinet on 17 March 2011 regarding the land swap proposal. A Trustees Meeting had been arranged for 3.00pm prior to the Council Meeting on 6 April 2011 to consider this matter.

A Member raised concern regarding the Concessionary Scheme. She commented that there were a number of households on the border line of receiving benefits who were not eligible for the Concessionary Scheme and asked whether there was any way of offering assistance to these households. The Director advised that discounts were available to those in receipt of Income Support, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit and were not income based. Officers had no discretion with regards to the Concessionary Scheme.

Members discussed the funding opportunities and noted that less funding was now available to bid for in Culture and Sports.

AGREED:

That the Q3 Performance Report be noted.

The meeting closed at 4.30pm.

CHAIRMAN