

# LEISURE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8 March 2000 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Ms Flanagan (Chair); Councillors Aujla, Butler, Mrs Compton, Copping, Darmody, Davis, Dove, Dray, Mrs Edwards, Mrs Goode, Hammon, Mrs Hodgetts, Mrs Pavier, Shilton

(Councillor Mrs Compton substituted for Councillor Cockburn)

## 698. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2000 having been printed and circulated were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### PART I

(Matters not the subject of powers delegated to the Committee by the Council)

NIL

### PART II

(Matters delegated to the Committee by the Council)

## 699. MARKETING - ROYAL SPA CENTRE

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Leisure and Amenities and received a presentation from David Phillips, Assistant Manager at the Royal Spa Centre, on marketing at the centre.

**RESOLVED** that the report and presentation be noted.

## 700. KENILWORTH ABBEY INTERPRETATION SCHEME

(Councillor Mrs Hodgetts declared a pecuniary interest in this item and left the meeting while it was being discussed).

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Leisure and Amenities and received a presentation from Mr Richard Marshall-Hardy, from The Drawing Room, Warwick, who had been selected to produce the detailed design for the scheme.

## **LEISURE COMMITTEE (Continued)**

The desire to improve the presentation of the remains of Kenilworth Abbey, a scheduled ancient monument in the Abbey Fields, was one of the findings which had emerged from public consultations about the development of Abbey Fields. In January 1997, following a presentation outlining an interpretation scheme produced by Consultant Designer Colin Milnes Associates, the Committee had given approval for the scheme to proceed when funds became available. An application for funding had been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund which had offered grant aid and the Leisure Committee had confirmed its approval for the project to go ahead in January 1999.

The current estimated cost of the scheme was £98,800 of which £78,700 would come from the Heritage Lottery Fund, £15,000 from this Council, £5,000 from Kenilworth Town Council with the balance from the Kenilworth History and Archaeological Society and the Kenilworth Abbey Advisory Committee. Colin Milnes, who had produced the initial concept study, had now left the area and after competitive interviews held in October 1999 The Drawing Room, Warwick had been selected to produce a detailed design for the scheme.

**RESOLVED** that approval be given for the implementation of the Kenilworth Abbey Interpretation Scheme as presented by Richard Marshall-Hardy.

### **701. NOTICE OF MOTION**

The Committee considered the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Mrs Begg which had been referred to it by the Council:-

"In view of the dissatisfaction expressed by several local organisations this Council resolves to provide better opportunities for local groups to publicise their events at the Pump Rooms."

Councillor Davis addressed the Committee on behalf of Mrs Begg who was unable to attend the meeting.

**RESOLVED** that the officers report on the Motion to the appropriate committee.

### **702. ARTS REVIEW**

(Councillor Copping declared a non-pecuniary, non-substantial interest in this minute).

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Leisure and Amenities seeking approval for the adoption of a new Warwick District Arts Strategy. A

draft Review of the Arts in Warwick District, had been commissioned by the Council to review the effectiveness of the Council's previous art strategy, to assess current levels of activity and provision in the area, and to recommend key priorities for future development and resource implications. The review had been carried out by Jenna Kumiega who attended the meeting and outlined the contents of the report.

The review had begun in November 1999 led by the Consultant, Jenna Kumiega. It had been overseen by a Steering Group comprising the Leisure Spokespersons, the Heritage and Arts Manager, the Outreach Manager and representatives from West Midlands Arts and the County Arts Service.

The draft Warwick District Art Strategy 2000 to 2004 had now been agreed by the Steering Group and was circulated with the report. The review was undertaken in a very short timescale and, as a result, it had not been possible to circulate a public draft of the Art Strategy. However, it was proposed that the executive summary and action plan would be made available for further consultation over the next few weeks after which there was likely to be further minor amendments before the Strategy was completed in its final form.

The Committee were also asked to approve other specific recommendations in the report for immediate implementation in the new financial year.

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) the Arts Review and Strategy 2000 to 2004, as submitted, be approved subject to any minor amendments following further consultation being agreed by the Spokespersons;
- (2) a future bid for additional resources for 2001/02 be approved to upgrade the current half-time Outreach Officer post into a full-time Cultural Development Officer post, after a new job description has been produced and evaluated by the Hay Panel;
- (3) authority be delegated to the Head of Leisure to increase the hours of the current part-time Outreach Officer post in line with any additional resources obtained from outside the Leisure Business Unit;
- (4) a third Key Agency Grant Budget be created using funds drawn from the Cultural Grants Budget and the Arts Development Budget and that in the first year the budget be allocated to the Warwick Arts Society (£5,000), the Motionhouse Dance Theatre (£2,000) and Live and Local (£3,000);

(5) organisations receiving funding from this new budget be required to accept a service level agreement committing them to help achieve agreed objectives in the District Arts Strategy and approval be given to the interim Arts and Heritage Outreach programme pending a further report later in the year should additional funding be secured from West Midlands Arts; and

(6) application be made to the West Midlands Arts for an interim one year funding agreement.

### 703. **CULTURAL GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS**

A report from the Head of Leisure and Amenities and Head of Finance was submitted on an application for grant aid received from Warwick Arts Society.

The report set out the policy adopted by the Committee for considering grant requests which was based on financial information on the organisations and how the services provided by the organisations fitted the Council's Art Strategy.

**RESOLVED** that a grant of £450 be awarded to the Warwick Arts Society.

### 704. **ACTIVITIES IN TOWN CENTRES**

A report was submitted from the Commissioning Team seeking agreement to the detailed schedule of activities planned to help increase the vitality and viability of the three town centres.

A timetable for various activities in the three town centres was submitted which highlighted the events which had not already been approved by the Committee. A separate report was handed round at the meeting informing Members of the impact of the farmers market in Clemens Street on 26 February.

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) the timetable of events, as submitted, be approved;
- (2) the street closures requested by the Chamber of Trade to accommodate some of the events be approved; and
- (3) support be given to a continental market being held in each of the three towns in addition to the timetable now submitted as part of the action plans to increase the vitality and viability of the those town centres.

### 705. **NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATIONS**

A report from the Head of Leisure and Amenities was submitted on the possibility of an annual celebration in the District on New Year's Eve.

The report set out full details of the events held in Leamington on 31 December 1999 and asked whether an annual event should be organised on each new year's eve.

**RESOLVED** that an annual event in Leamington be approved in principle subject to resources being available and the Officers be asked to apply for additional resources.

**706. NEWBOLD COMYN GOLF COURSE SPONSORSHIP**

A report from the Head of Leisure and Amenities was submitted seeking approval for the officers to approach private companies with a view to agreeing financial sponsorship for individual playing areas and holes at Newbold Comyn Golf Course.

**RESOLVED** that the officers be authorised to investigate what form of sponsorship would be available and report to the appropriate Committee.

**707. BATES MEMORIAL FIELD - FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME**

A report from the Head of Leisure and Amenities was submitted on a possible flood alleviation scheme at Bates Memorial Field, Kenilworth. Flooding had occurred at properties in The Gardens, Hermitage Way, Thornby Avenue, and Arden Road, in 1998 and 1999 and it was felt that work to the Bates Memorial Field could reduce the amount of flooding in the area.

A scheme, which was favoured by the residents, had been worked up and detailed costing had been sought. The total cost of the scheme would be £40,000 and the best time to carry out the works would be September to March.

**RESOLVED** that the scheme as submitted for flood alleviation work to Bates Memorial Field be approved and a bid be made for the necessary resources.

**708. JEPHSON GARDENS LOTTERY AWARD**

(Councillor Mrs Hodgetts declared a pecuniary interest in this item and left the room whilst it was being discussed).

The Head of Leisure and Amenities submitted a written report informing members of the progress on the Jephson Gardens Lottery award for the restoration and renewal of the Jephson Gardens and seeking support for an application to amend the planning permission for the restaurant and temperate glasshouse. Details of the present position with regards to the seven contracts involved in the scheme were set out in the report.

The application for planning permission for the temperate glasshouse and restaurants had been made before the Easter floods of 1998 and concern had been expressed about the new water levels. It was suggested, therefore, that application be made for amendments to the planning permission in order to ensure that the new development would be protected against future floods. The potting shed which formed part of the complex had been damaged by fire and it was now proposed to remove this building completely. The amended proposal was to move the temperate house about eight metres north and out of any jurisdiction of the Environmental Agency. It meant that access could be gained at a first floor level from behind the floral clock.

Meetings had taken place with the Environment Agency and the level of the building was now above the flood levels of the Easter flood of 1998. However, the Environmental Agency were suggesting raising the building a further 600mm. The problems with such a proposals were set out in the report. The Council's insurance company and the Conservation Area Advisory Forum had both agreed that the existing levels shown on the amended drawings were acceptable.

In order to process the design of the restaurant an advertisement had been placed in the 'Hotel and Caterer' for expressions of interest to run what would be one of the finest catering facilities in the Council's parks. The fitting out of the facilities would be the responsibility of the new tenant, and it was important, therefore, that the catering rights were let as soon as possible so that the new caterers could be contacted by the architects on the final design.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted and application be made for an amendment to the planning permission in respect of the restaurant and temperate glasshouse as set out above.

#### 709. **JEPHSON GARDENS**

A report from the Head of Leisure and Amenities was submitted seeking delegated authority to the Chief Executive for this project in view of the short timetable.

Due to the specialist nature of some of the building and landscaping work on this project and the relatively tight timetable for implementation, it was proposed that the Chief Executive be given delegated powers to determine the tenderers where work was considered to be of a specialist nature and authorise the seeking of tenders for all contracts within the project.

**RESOLVED** that the Chief Executive be authorised to determine the tenderers where the work is considered to be of a specialist nature and to authorise the seeking of tenders for all contracts within the project.

#### 710. **SPORTS GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS**

(Councillor Darmody declared a substantial interest in the application for the Mid-Warwickshire Yacht Club but did not leave the room as there was no discussion).

Members considered a report on applications for grant aid from the Gap Project, Warwick Sports Club and Mid-Warwickshire Yacht Club. The report set out the financial factors previously adopted by the Recreation and Amenities Committee as being relevant in considering grant applications.

**RESOLVED** that grants be offered as follows:-

- (1) £330 to the Gap Project towards the installation of a basketball post subject to funding for the tarmac surface being in place;
- (2) £2,000 to the Warwick Sports Club against a £18,400 scheme or £1,000 against a £10,400 scheme towards the cost of re-surfacing the car parking areas, subject to other funding being in place; and
- (3) £250 to the Mid-Warwickshire Yacht Club towards the cost of purchasing safety and training equipment.

#### 711. **SKATEBOARD RAMP, CASTLE FARM, KENILWORTH**

A report from the Head of Leisure and Amenities was submitted on the future of the skateboard ramp at Castle Farm, Kenilworth. At its meeting in September 1999 following a resolution from Kenilworth Town Council and a Notice of Motion from Councillor Coker, the Officers had been asked to arrange a meeting between the Police, Mayfair Securities, the Spokespersons and up to three representatives of local residents to discuss ways of alleviating the nuisance caused to residents by the siting of the ramp at Castle Farm. Such a meeting had been held in December 1999. Up to fifty people attended that meeting and a

second smaller meeting had been held in January. The report set out various options open to the Committee.

**RESOLVED** that no action be taken to move the skateboarding ramp at Castle Farm but the officers arrange to supplement the parks patrols in the area, particularly during the summer period, and also work closely with the local Police.

#### 712. **RANDOLPH TURPIN STATUE**

A report from the Head of Leisure and Amenities was submitted seeking Members' views on a request to find a location for a statue that had been commissioned of Randolph Turpin.

A letter had been received from Adrian Bush who was the Chairman of the Randolph Turpin Memorial Fund asking the Council to find a permanent position for a statue of Randolph Turpin to be paid for by funds that had been raised over the last three years.

Mr Bush was looking for a site somewhere in the town centre of Leamington and the funds raised would cover all the costs of installing the statue and any extra costs that might be incurred. The statue which would be eight feet high on a five feet plinth, had been commissioned by Karl Payne.

Various suggestions were made as to a suitable site for the statue.

**RESOLVED** that the Council accept the principle of erecting the statue in Leamington and the Officers take into account suggestions made at this meeting and any which might be forthcoming following press coverage and liaise with Mr Bush with a view to finding a suitable site.

#### 713. **EXTENSION TO WAITING ROOM AT MID-WARWICKSHIRE CREMATORIUM**

A report from Property Services was submitted seeking approval to the building of an extension to the south chapel waiting room at the Mid-Warwickshire Crematorium.

Following consultations with the Leisure and Amenities Business Unit and directly with staff at Mid-Warwickshire Crematorium, it had become clearer that the existing waiting room at the south chapel was too small. It was, therefore, proposed to build a single storey extension to the south chapel waiting room sympathetic to the original building design. The new extension would double the



waiting room's capacity. It was proposed to invite tenders during April with a anticipated completion date in August 2000. The estimated cost of the scheme was £16,000 and would be jointly funded from within the Leisure and Building Maintenance Budgets.

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) the scheme for the extension of the waiting room be approved;
- (2) authority be given for the seeking of planning permission; and
- (3) the Head of Property be authorised to invite tenders for the work.

714. **GENERAL REPORT**

(A) ART GALLERY AND MUSEUM OPENING TIMES

**RESOLVED** that the opening times of the Art Gallery and Museum in the Royal Pump Rooms be modified as suggested in the report submitted.

(B) PUBLIC LANE SWIMMING - ST. NICHOLAS PARK LEISURE CENTRE AND NEWBOLD COMYN LEISURE CENTRE

**RESOLVED** that the officers be authorised to decide on the addition of the public lane swims to the existing programme at St. Nicholas Park and Newbold Comyn Leisure Centres, based on the outcome of the consultation exercise carried out in February 2000.

(C) MILLENNIUM YOUTH GAMES

**RESOLVED** that the report from the Head of Leisure and Amenities be noted and approval be given to the suggestion that winning Warwick District teams are entered into the National Finals.

(D) LEISURE CHARTERMARK APPLICATION

**RESOLVED** that the report from the Head of Leisure and Amenities informing members of the progress towards application for the chartermark award be noted and the application be supported.

(E) GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

**RESOLVED** that the report from the Head of Leisure and Amenities on the current situation with regard to the grounds maintenance contract be noted.

(The meeting ended at 8.15 p.m)

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