

MEMBERS/TRADES UNIONS JOINT CONSULTATION AND SAFETY PANEL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4 July 2007 at Riverside House, Royal Leamington Spa at 4.30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Employers' side: Councillors Barrott, Copping and Mrs Scarrott.

Trades Unions' side: Mr A Crump, Mr J Lynch and Mrs J Webb.

191. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS

It was

RESOLVED that

- (1) Councillor Barrott be appointed as Chair for the Employers' side for the ensuing year; and
- (2) Mr A E Foster be appointed as Chair for the Trades Unions' side for the ensuing year.

It was the Employers' turn to Chair the meeting so Councillor Barrott took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

192. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

193. ACCIDENT REPORT (ACCIDENTS SINCE START OF MARCH 2007 – END OF MAY 2007)

The Panel considered a report from the Council's Health & Safety Advisor which provided them with an overview of the accidents/incidents that had been reported to him between March 2007 and the end of May 2007.

The Council's Health and Safety Advisor updated members on actions which had already been implemented at Abbey Fields Swimming Pool following an incident in September 2006 involving a member of staff. Non-slip paint had now been installed to help prevent any further incidents of slipping.

He also reported that further information would be distributed to all staff on Slips, Trips and Falls and how to prevent them, and regarding Scalds / Burns. The Health and Safety Officer confirmed that following each incident a risk assessment was carried out and appropriate action taken.

Members were concerned regarding the incident involving a member of the public being found unconscious in the sauna at Newbold Comyn Leisure

Centre. The Health and Safety Officer confirmed that notices detailing guidance when using the sauna had been displayed outside the sauna and 30 minute checks were to be carried out by staff.

Members were concerned that staffing levels could affect the checks being carried out. The Health and Safety Officer reported that safety procedures were being reviewed throughout the Leisure Centres and a more formal arrangement for checking the saunas could be agreed as part of the review.

The Health and Safety Officer updated members on the current situation regarding the incident reported at St Nicholas swimming pool involving a member of the public lacerating his foot on a broken tile at the deep end of the pool. Following a survey of the damaged tile, it was reported that although the tile needed to be replaced there was no immediate danger. The Health and Safety Officer was awaiting a quote for the work and agreed to chase this up. Members were reminded that repairs to swimming pools are costly due to the large amount of disruption involved but they were assured that the work would be carried out as soon as practicable.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the content of the report be noted; and
- (2) the Health and Safety Officer will chase up the quote regarding the repair to St Nicholas Swimming Pool.

194. DECRIMINILISATION OF ON STREET PARKING

The Panel received a verbal report from Mr Crump detailing the arrangements for parking when attending evening meetings at the Town Hall.

He outlined the concerns raised by staff regarding the restrictions which would only allow them to park on Regent Grove and Hamilton Terrace for two hours. The staff members were concerned about having to walk back to St Peters car park late at night, with all their paperwork or having to leave the meetings to move their cars and put another ticket on to cover them until 8.00pm. Mr Crump was keen to point out to members that this issue would not only affect officers of the Council but also councillors.

The Acting Strategic Director (Customer Information and Advice) informed members that ordinarily a joint consultation matter would not come before them especially without both sides being present. She also reported that this issue would not be an issue when meetings were held at Riverside House. She assured members that talks were ongoing and any resolution would be brought back to the panel in the future.

Members were concerned that this would affect a number of the more elderly councillors and as many of them were also female, they may also be unhappy with the prospect of having to park quite a way away from the Town Hall.

It was agreed that as there were still issues to be explored and hopefully resolved, the matter would be reported back to the panel in due course.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(The meeting ended at 5.00pm)