

REPORT OF LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE

(Meeting held 5 January 1999)

1. GRANT AID APPLICATIONS (REPORTS A AND B) (MINUTE NOS 68 AND 69).

The Committee has considered and agreed grant applications from the following organisations:-

- (i) **Salterns Sailing Club** - Grant of £1,000 towards the provision of toilets, changing rooms, replacement roof and associated works;
- (ii) **Ibsley Village Hall** - Grant of £2,500 towards the extension of the village hall by providing toilets for people with disabilities.
- (iii) **Millennium Youth Games** - Grant of £2,500 to enable the Council to organise local participation in the Millennium Youth Games, which are being organised by the English Sports Council

2. COASTAL SAFETY POLICY (REPORT C) (MINUTE NO 70).

The Committee has agreed a Coastal Safety Policy and Management Practice document which seeks to safeguard the health and safety of users of the District Council's coastline, which runs from Redbridge Causeway to Chewton Bunny. The purpose of the Document is to provide a written assessment of the hazards that may be encountered on the coastline and a statement of what practical procedures the Council might implement to minimise the risks.

Copies of the Coastal Safety Policy and Management Practice Document will be circulated to all relevant personnel, and will be brought to the attention of all contractors and other agencies that have to carry out work along the coast.

All designated employees who work on the coast will be trained in First Aid by St John Ambulance.

A risk assessment of potential hazards on the coastline has been undertaken, using guidelines drawn up by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA).

3. LYMINGTON RECREATION CENTRE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS (REPORT D) (MINUTE NO 71).

The Committee has considered and agreed proposals for establishing a Shadow Management Board for the Lymington Recreation Centre, to run alongside the Consultative Committee for a trial period of twelve months, with a view to developing and improving arrangements for the running of the Centre.

The Shadow Board will initially run for a twelve month trial basis, in order to allow for adjustments such as possible changes to the Board's composition or powers (by agreement) so that the new Board could evolve and be flexible to changing requirements and circumstances. During this process, the Consultative Committee will continue with its work, thus avoiding any potential disruption during the twelve month trial. Accordingly, the powers of the Shadow Board would be limited.

The three overriding factors to be balanced were:-

1. To improve democratic involvement.
2. To protect the 'sovereignty' of the parties involved (the District Council, the County Council, the schools and the Town Council).
3. To protect the District Council's asset.

Members were assured that there were no financial consequences, but that any such costs which might arise could be absorbed within existing budgets.

The establishment of the Shadow Board will not lead to any change in the powers of the Leisure Services Committee or of the Council in terms of control over the management of the Centre.

It was agreed that the Board be a small, non-executive body representing the interests of the partners, and that responsibility for determining annual revenue contributions remain with the respective funding bodies.

The Membership will be comprised as follows:-

- Two District Councillors - (Chairman of Leisure Services Committee plus one local member)
- Two Governors - Chairman of Governors plus one other (possibly Chairman of appropriate Sub-Committee)
- Town Council - one representative (possibly Chairman of the Town Council's Leisure Committee)
- One County Councillor (possibly the local member).

The Head Teacher, Centre Manager and other officers of the school, District Council, Town Council and the County Council will attend in an advisory capacity as appropriate. A representative of the User Group will also sit as a full member of the Board.

It was agreed that the Board meet at least three times a year, with suggested timing and content of meetings being as follows:-

- **February** - To discuss and agree the business plan and budget, fees and charges, maintenance arrangements, school and community programme
- **June** - To discuss and agree expenditure plan proposals. Review of performance against the Business Plan of the previous year. Review school and community programme for the coming year.
- **November** - To receive notice of indicative revenue allocations from the County Council and District Council, consider payments between the Recreation Centre and the school for the following financial year. Review of half-year performance against the Business Plan. Review of school and community programme.

A report reviewing progress is to be brought to the January 2000 meeting of the Leisure Services Committee.

4. RINGWOOD RECREATION CENTRE SWIMMING POOL - RE-TILING - PROGRESS REPORT (REPORT E) (MINUTE NO 72).

The Committee has received a progress report on the current situation with the tiling of the main and learner swimming pools at Ringwood Recreation Centre.

Members will recall that, in November 1998, a small number of tiles became detached in the swimming pool, and as a result of a full inspection, it was decided to move the planned re-tiling forward, with work commencing on 5 December 1998 with completion of the work scheduled for early February.

It was reported that the slab underneath the tiles had been inspected and was in good condition. The scheme was within budget and the overall financial implications were as follows:-

- The revenue implications of the closure, assuming that the pool re-opened on schedule, estimated at £48,000 (gross) (comprising actual "across counter" losses of £42,000 and £6,000 compensation for catering contractor)
- The budget cost of the capital works was £55,000

However, as income before closure was £15,000 ahead of the original budget, the net additional revenue budget requirement was £33,000.

The above costs could be met within the Committee's overall budget.

Councillor J J Dawson
CHAIRMAN

(ctteemtg/cttee/ls050199/report)