

ASH-CUM-RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
SPORTS CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Minutes of a meeting of the Sports Centre Management Committee held on
Monday 12 February 2024 at 7pm at Ash Green Sports Centre.

Present: Cllr M Manley – Chairman
Cllr M Aspinall
Cllr C Clark
Cllr V Ngwenya

A de Jager – Parish Clerk and Sports Centre Manager
K Law – Deputy Clerk and Finance Officer
M Johnson-Hodges – Assistant Clerk

Staff:
V Benfield
P Taylor-Barnes
J White

1. Apologies

Cllr R Brammer, Cllr S Fishenden, Cllr I MacLeod, C Price and staff J Edwards, R Milroy and V Henman.

Cllr M Manley welcomed members of staff to the meeting and thanked everyone for all that they do for the Sports Centre to keep it a friendly welcoming place.

2. Declarations of Interests

None

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Cllr V Ngwenya PROPOSED that the minutes of the meeting of 16 January 2024 were approved and signed as a true record. SECONDED: Cllr C Clark and AGREED.

4. Finance

4.1. Current Financial Position – the Finance Officer took members through the reports noting that the Sports Centre has a surplus of £7,719, less the grant from Hartley Parish Council, £4,219. At the same time last year the accounts reflected a £10,596 deficit. Membership income has outperformed the budget and focus needs to be on retention and Val and Jo White are working on this. We are waiting for LAT/Milestone Academy to confirm the contract rates for utilities. Some members take out gym memberships that include gentle exercise and circuit training classes but do not use the gym. The Finance Officer will try to move the classes only memberships from gym memberships for the financial year, which will result in a drop in gym membership. Badminton usage is down, with irregular bookings. We need to advertise Saturday and Sunday Badminton to encourage use. Members were taken through the payments.

4.2 Cllr M Aspinall PROPOSED that the cheques signed since the last meeting are approved. SECONDED: Cllr V Ngwenya and AGREED.

5. Sports Centre Manager's Report

Centre Usage

Graphs are attached. As reported last month, the usage figures may not be accurate as there are currently three methods of recording visits. This will be resolved once a decision has been made regarding the software for the Sports Centre.

Software

Our contract with Club Wise ends in April 2024 and alternative software programmes are being investigated.

Gym

The new year offer of half price membership for the month of January has been successful with 70 new memberships in the month. Of these 37 were Adult Gym, 24 Concession Gym and 9 Classes memberships. The Clocktower Gym had to close for a short period in January and some of their members have taken out memberships with us, however, we would expect the majority of these to return to the Clocktower.

Classes

Gentle Exercise classes continue to exceed capacity, and Jo White has agreed to come in and dual teach the classes with Val, using both the circuit training room and squash court. Boxfit and Yoga on Monday evenings are popular, but Barre Fitness struggles with regular attendance. Circuit training on Tuesdays and Thursdays is included in Gym memberships.

Teen Gym

Teen gym continues on Mondays and Thursdays days with 27 young people attending in January.

Milestone Academy

The fire alarm is being triggered more frequently, with 5 false alarms in the last two weeks. A number of incidents with school traffic staff being rude to our members, has resulted in a meeting with the Site Manager and one of the school staff being removed from car park duties. An email has been sent to the Estates Director of LAT requesting that we are included in any discussions and decisions regarding the possible installation of an electric gate at the entrance to the site.

Outsourcing of the Management of the Sports Centre

A letter has been sent to Swale Leisure Trust advising the decision of the Committee to put a hold on the outsourcing of the Sports Centre for a period of two years, to allow ample time for the ongoing negotiations concerning the lease and Dual Use Agreement to be concluded satisfactorily, and that we will carry out a review in 18 months.

Repairs and Maintenance

1. A leaking Velux window in the gym is set for repair, with the Parish Council covering the associated costs.
2. Our contractors are having difficulty in sourcing the fin to replace the damaged one on the air source heat pump in the squash court. As both heat pumps have been damaged in this manner, we will obtain quotes to have mesh cages installed to protect them.

- 3. The cost of providing and installing a small washing machine and tumble dryer for the gym cloths is being looked into.
- 4. The handheld vacuum cleaner will be replaced.
- 5. With the management of the Centre being retained, at present, better use of the Circuit Training room as an extension of the gym is being looked into. Classes, with the exception of Barre Fitness and Adult Ballet will be held in the Squash Court and these times will be permanently reserved for classes.

6. Leigh Academies Trust and Lease.

Included under item 5.

7. Sports Centre Website/Facebook/Instagram

Val and Pam continue to post on social media.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting of the Sports Centre Management Committee was set for 12 March 2024 at 7pm at the Village Association meeting room. A Working Group meeting will be held on Monday 26 February 2024 and all ideas are welcome.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed:
Chairman

Date: