

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

HERITAGE, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 5 MARCH 2019

Present: Councillors Cuming, Fermor, Harper (Chairman),
Hastie, Mrs Hinder, Lewins and Mrs Wilson

135. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was noted that apologies were received by Councillor B Hinder.

136. NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

There were no Substitute Members.

137. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

138. NOTIFICATION OF VISITING MEMBERS

There were no Visiting Members.

139. DISCLOSURES BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There were no disclosures by Members or Officers.

140. DISCLOSURES OF LOBBYING

There were no disclosures of lobbying.

141. EXEMPT ITEMS

RESOLVED: That all items be taken in public as proposed.

142. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 JANUARY 2019

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed.

143. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

144. QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from members of the public.

145. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee discussed the items on the Work Programme and made the following changes:-

- The Museum's Trust Status Update, Update on HCL Workshop, Governance/Fundraising for Museum, Strategic Plan – New KPIs, Cemetery Update and Destination Management Plan – 1 year Action Plan would be scheduled for the April meeting.
- The Market Review, scheduled for the June Committee meeting, would be retitled 'Lockmeadow Review' to incorporate a fuller review of the Lockmeadow complex.
- Museums – Agreeing the 'Story of Maidstone' – this item was moved to July.
- Long Term Maintenance of Assets – the Committee requested that the Property Services Manager provide a Briefing Note to the Committee to confirm if they had a schedule for planned maintenance for Council owned buildings and if not, what procedures were in place.

The Committee agreed that the Chairman would produce a short report on the work that had accomplished by the Committee during this municipal year.

RESOLVED: That

1. The Committee Work Programme, as amended, be agreed.
2. The Chairman would produce a short report on the work that had been accomplished by the Committee during this municipal year.

Voting: Unanimous

146. FUTURE OF SPORT AND LEISURE PROVISION

Mr Mike Evans, the Leisure Manager, presented a report on the Future of Sport and Leisure Provision which set out proposals to conduct stakeholder engagement that would jointly address options for future leisure provision and the Maidstone Leisure Centre.

Mr Evans highlighted that:-

- The Borough had a growing and ageing population which was why future leisure provision should be tailored to the needs of all the population.

- Although there was a strong indication in the borough that residents were fairly active or active (77.2%), there was an element of the population that are not physically active (22.8%).
- The Leisure Centre was the borough's flagship sports centre and had five years left to run on its current 15 year management contract. The condition of the leisure centre building was unknown and there was uncertainty as to whether a similar 15 year contract would be possible.
- An engagement process would be undertaken to consult with key stakeholders. A project officer would be recruited to support the entire consultation period.

The Chairman emphasised that there was no intention of the Council to dispose of the Leisure Centre but it recognised that it required a lot of refurbishment and building works to be carried out to sustain its future provision.

The Committee made the following comments:-

- The Committee should be fully involved in the stakeholder engagement at all stages.
- Sport England should be invited at the outset of the engagement process and also Birmingham City Council who had undertaken an Active Wellbeing programme aimed at those residents who were inactive so would be able to provide knowledge and experience.
- That schools should be surveyed to identify what facilities they had for sport activities and whether they made provision for others to use the facilities.

RESOLVED: That

1. That a stakeholder engagement exercise be run to understand the feasibility of recommendations in the Sports Facilities Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy and to shape the future of sport and leisure provision in the borough.
2. That all Members of the Heritage, Culture and Leisure Committee be invited to participate in all stages of the consultation.
3. That the stakeholder engagement frames future leisure plans for the borough alongside its existing commitments, including the future of Maidstone Leisure Centre.
4. That Sports England be invited at the outset of the stakeholder engagement exercise.
5. That the leisure centre surplus share be used to fund a fixed term project officer post at a cost of £18,865 per annum to support the

stakeholder engagement exercise.

Voting: Unanimous

147. DURATION OF MEETING

6.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.