

## **CHANDLER'S FORD PARISH COUNCIL - ASSET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**5 DECEMBER 2022**

**Fryern Pavilion 7.00 pm**

**PRESENT:** Councillors A Broadhurst (Chairman), Attrill, Irish and Kyrle.

**In attendance:** Cllr Duguid, with Duncan Murray (Parish Clerk), Tori Beqo (Facilities Manager) and Geoff Mitchinson (Team Leader Sportshall).

**Public Participation:** There were two people present for public participation one wanted to ask a question. The Committee was asked about the provision of the second path across the recreation ground to complete a circuit, as she was aware that it had been approved. The Clerk answered the questions saying that with the significant price increases, until the council knew where its finances would be in the coming year, projects generally had been put on hold. However, once the financial year was coming to an end and he knew the budget for 2023-24 some projects might be progressed, and the second hoggin path was a council priority.

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Cllrs Evans, Johnson and Selby had sent their apologies, Cllrs Baker and Beer were not present.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none

### **3. TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ASSET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF 3 OCTOBER 2022.**

After being gone through page by page and following proposal, seconding and on a show of hands these were AGREED.

### **4. TO RECEIVE THE COMPLIANCE (OPERATIONS) OFFICER'S AND FACILITIES MANAGER'S REPORTS:**

#### **4.1. Update on PSS and most recent reports**

The Officer's report was noted, showing 1 item of minor vandalism reported, which was classed as low or very low risk.

#### **4.2. To note maintenance/contracted work undertaken/advisable**

The Facilities Manager's report:

- **Ground Maintenance:** All ground maintenance has been carried out as per normal for this time of the year. Due to the mild weather, we are still cutting grass as the grass is still growing, mostly on the football pitches.
- **Maintenance Checks:** All maintenance checks completed at Fryern and Hiltingbury including water checks and fire alarms. We had Stannah servicing both lifts at Hiltingbury Sportshall on the 29<sup>th</sup> November.
- **Trees at Fryern and Hiltingbury:** Quote received from our tree surgeon regarding a dead tree at Fryern and removing all the dead wood all around our trees at Fryern and Hiltingbury. Unfortunately, on my weekly inspections I discovered another dead tree at Hiltingbury which is very close to the path, and in my view needs to be taken down as its not safe.
- **Tennis Courts:** Axis have now replaced the faulty magnets on the bottom court as well as the top court, the doors are operating much better, and they are more secure.
- **Fryern Shutters:** We had an issue with one of the shutters in the greenways room, a regular customer forgot the window was open, which caused the shutter to break when closing. With Phil's and Duncan's help I managed to fix the shutter back on.
- **Play Areas repairs:** Vita Play have now completed all the repairs on our play areas, all the equipment is back in working order.
- **Lights at Fryern :** ALB ELECTRICAL are booked in for the 5<sup>th</sup> December to replace the lights at the back of the building and the changing rooms.
- **Staffing at Hiltingbury Sportshall:** We have now hired a new member av staff Charley Orr, for the Part-Time position at the Sportshall. Charley is doing well, she is training at

the moment with Geoff and the rest of the team.

**4.3. To note a report on incidents recorded and reported to the police.**

Nothing had been reported.

**5. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REPORT ON FRYERN PAVILION AND SPORTSHALL TRADING ETC:**

The Sports Hall usage remains high. Staff had received numerous comments both positive & negative on how popular the Sports Hall has become, even at the weekends. It's clear to see that the public and club bookings have taken up a lot of the free slots throughout the week. Whilst there are two club bookings during the weekends, public bookings are occupying the rest.

As we closed in on the festive season, we have most of our clubs/groups closing down until after Christmas & New Year. Christmas opening hours were ready to display. The Sportshall usually experienced a reduction in usage within the Sports Hall & studios during this period. GM was expecting an increase in bookings come the new year after the indulgences of Christmas and in the past they have teamed up with EBC with campaigns like "Back to Badminton" or "This Girl Can" to bring in extra bookings whilst offering their normal activities to the community. From this they have a regular local Walking Netball group that train with them every Wednesday morning.

Our 50+ Get Active morning had grown in numbers with our Monday sessions becoming oversubscribed. This was now filtering onto their Thursday sessions which had always been quieter. The Thursday 50+ session was also growing in popularity, which was fantastic and had a great community group feel.

They had taken on two more regular weekly bookings in Studio 2. One was a Clinical Pilates group which is starting in the new year, and the other is a fitness-based exercise class.

**Tennis Courts**

The tennis court usage was slowing down as we move further into the Winter months. The wetter weather was deterring even the avid player.

However, our coaches were still finding gaps in the weather to coach throughout the week, which was still bringing in extra revenue in what was usually very quiet months.

Our staff member, Tom Vinnell had recently qualified as a GRSA Pro Stringer. He would be offering his services to local tennis players, as he was well known within the local tennis community. Well done Tom!

**Staffing**

The team had taken on a new member of staff Charley Orr at 20hrs/wk. They were currently working through the normal training with her.

**6. TO DISCUSS AND AGREE WHETHER TO INVESTIGATE THE CREATION OF, OR JUST GO AHEAD AND SET UP, A TODDLER SOFT PLAY AREA IN STUDIO 1 IN THE SPORTSHALL FROM FRIDAY MORNINGS TO SUNDAY EVENINGS.**

The Chairman introduced the item as a way of providing the community with something useful and at the same time increasing the occupancy of studio 1 over the weekend when it was unused. It was made clear that the parents/guardians of the children would be responsible for their supervision.

A Member enquired about consultation/research, to which the Clerk responded as to why the agenda item was worded as it was, so there was an option for the committee, they could request the research or take a risk and test the market live.

Two Members supported this approach and it was questioned as to whether the warm space for toddlers and their carers could be implemented during the colder months if surveys/market research was carried out and reported back. The Clerk said that the insurance position would be checked with Zurich, but that he was pretty sure that so long as the Terms and Conditions were clear in specifying with whom the responsibility lay then there should be no greater liability than

that of the landowner.

Following proposal, seconding and on a show of hands it was AGREED that the soft play facility would go ahead at the indicated cost of £4,100 ex VAT and with a charge of £2 for the first child and 1 for subsequent children (subject to Sports Booker enabling this).

Cllr Atrill's vote against the motion was recorded.

**7. TO DISCUSS THE PRICING FOR SPORTSHALL AND ROOM HIRE AND WHETHER, WITH THE COST-OF-LIVING ISSUES, THEY SHOULD BE FROZEN FOR ANOTHER YEAR, OR INCREASED.**

A non-voting Member commented first about this item, acknowledging and appreciating the position of officers in the briefing note and suggesting a modest increase in charges, so that the 'elasticity of demand' was not breached. He commented that other Members he had been speaking with were suggesting a 3-5% increase in costs for the Sportshall/pavilions and with Tennis Membership going up, for the first time in 6-years to £12 a year from £10, so it was £1 per month.

Other Members commented about a modest increase in prices protecting the Precept so that it was used to help the most vulnerable.

Following proposal, seconding and on a show of hands a 5% average increase in charges for the Sportshall/pavilions as an energy surcharge was AGREED, along with a £2pa increase for the tennis membership.

**8. TO DISCUSS AND AGREE WHETHER THE SPORTSHALL SHOULD OPEN 1-HOUR LATER IN THE MORNINGS MONDAY TO FRIDAY.**

This was introduced by GM as the Team Leader of the Sportshall who commented that the uptake Monday to Friday for this first slot of the day was very limited, and that the savings it could bring would be beneficial as well as assisting with the staff rota.

One Member suggested a reduction in hours should be also offset with a reduction in hours worked. Officers contributed by commenting that staffing resources were stretched most of the time, but it was quite costly to look to spend over £50 per week to maybe earn £6.

Following proposal, seconding and on a show of hands the shortening of the hours for the winter/early spring period was AGREED.

**9. TO NOTE THAT OFFICERS HAVE MANAGED TO GET A SECOND QUOTE FOR ENERGY SUPPLIES FROM CORONA THAT IS MORE FAVOURABLE THAN UTILITY AID'S.**

After a short discussion this was NOTED.

**10. MATTERS TO BE TAKEN FORWARD TO THE COMMITTEE'S NEXT AGENDA.**

A report was requested about the number of Sportshall users that lived in the parish

The next meeting was confirmed as Monday 16 January 2023, 7.00pm Fryern Pavilion. That being the end of business the meeting was closed at 8.15pm.

Chairman.....