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WIMBORNE MINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of an informal meeting of the **RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE** via video link held on **FRIDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2021 at 10.00 am.**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT VIA VIDEO LINK

Cllr S K Bartlett – Chairman
Cllr A E Roberts – Vice-Chairman
Cllr P Bache
Cllr C A Chedgy (joined meeting at 10.28 am)
Cllr L C Hinks
Cllr D J March
Cllr W J Richmond
Cllr K F Webb – Ex-Officio – Chairman of the Council

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Cllr M J Hopkins
Cllr C L Butter - Ex-Officio – Vice-Chairman of the Council

OFFICERS PRESENT VIA VIDEO LINK

Assistant Town Clerk
Committee Officer

64 RECREATION GROUNDS INSPECTION REPORT

The Committee Officer submitted for information a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The report covered in detail all current issues relating to the recreation grounds.

Leigh Park

The Committee Officer reported that the bin had now been installed near to the conifer trees at the rear of the park.

Redcotts Recreation Ground

Cllr March requested that cyclamen also be planted under the trees at the jubilee walk, in addition to bluebells.

Cllr Roberts requested that the holes in the hedge parallel to Redcotts Road be blocked up to prevent small dogs escaping onto the road.

Cllr Richmond suggested that the profile of the croquet lawn be raised next summer by the Committee participating in some croquet matches, possibly against a neighbouring parish.

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REDCOTTS RECREATION GROUND - GRAFFITI

The Committee Officer submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as **Appendix B** to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The report detailed instances of graffiti that had occurred at Redcotts Recreation Ground over the past year, including costs incurred and a suggestion on how to deal with graffiti vandalism in the future.

The Chairman commented that in other towns graffiti walls had been provided for those who indulged in this practice to have somewhere to paint in order to deter them painting on other infrastructure. However, the ambience of Redcotts Recreation Ground was such that it would not be appropriate in that location.

Cllr Webb suggested that as well as trying to identify individuals from CCTV footage that information about vandalism of the Council's properties be posted on social media, including the costs of repair.

Cllr Bache requested that increased and improved signage be considered to deter vandalism.

The Committee requested that the Town Clerk take the following action:

- a) that the skate ramp be cleaned professionally, using a low-pressure system so as not to damage the integrity of the surface;
- b) that the Grounds Team deal with any additional graffiti as soon as practicable after it appears;
- c) that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman arrange to meet with the skate boarders at Redcotts to discuss the Town Council's concerns and to establish whether they have any suggestions as to how to discourage this type of vandalism;
- d) that a suitable statement be posted on social media;
- e) explore the possibility of sharing a mobile CCTV camera with an adjoining parish. The Clerk to the Committee to present a report to a future meeting.
- f) that the police be asked, once again, to increase patrols at Redcotts Recreation Ground.

(Note: Cllr Chedgy joined the meeting at this point).

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CONTROLLED USE OF WEED KILLERS

The Committee Officer submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as **Appendix C** to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The report gave information on the limitations of the natural weedkiller that was currently being used by the Grounds Team and requested that consideration be given to using glyphosate in limited situations. This would be especially beneficial for the wildflower areas.

Dorset Council had provided information on why it used glyphosate:

“We are passionate about being eco-friendly and we only use weedkiller when absolutely necessary. When the product is applied at the start of the growing season, we strim the areas as low as possible meaning that there are no plants for pollinators to be on when weedkilling so the product can do no harm to them. Our spray knapsacks also have a coned guard on the nozzle end which ensures that there is no drift of product allowing the spraying to be 100% accurate.

The product used on our amenity areas to control unwanted vegetation is a Glyphosate based herbicide called Roundup pro-Vantage, which is fully endorsed by the European Commission and is specifically designed to block plant enzymes and not impact on animals and people.

Our trained operatives always adhere to COSHH standards and are certificated to spray in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions; all operatives are Lantra/NTPC qualified.

You may be familiar with Roundup as it is available in pre-diluted form from your local supermarket for residential weed control.

Please follow the link to the product information guide for further guidance: <https://d2j31icv6dlhz6.cloudfront.net/O/qABxFTJPOAWibVo2GeYn.pdf> and the following link to the European Commission's 'glyphosate facts page' for additional peace of mind: https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides/glyphosate_en.”

Cllr Webb requested that the soil type be tested in Redcotts to establish whether it was suitable for wildflowers.

The Committee supported the use of Round Up (or a similar product) in limited circumstances where it was deemed necessary.

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REDCOTTS RECREATION GROUND – REQUESTS FOR DEFIBRILLATOR

The Committee Officer submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as **Appendix D** to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The report highlighted that a number of requests had been received by local residents for a defibrillator to be installed on the outside of the Pavilion at Redcotts Recreation Ground.

Cllr Webb expressed concern as to the vulnerability of a defibrillator to acts of vandalism.

Cllr Chedgy asked that before agreeing to installing a defibrillator at Redcotts that a holistic approach was adopted and the locations of other defibrillators in the Town be established to ascertain whether there was in fact a need for it.

Cllr Roberts reminded the Committee that there was in fact a defibrillator at the Bowls Club, albeit located inside.

The Committee requested that in the first instance the Bowls Club be approached and asked whether they would consider moving their defibrillator to a location accessible to all users of the Recreation Ground. If necessary, the Council could provide the cabinet to store it in.

The Committee Officer was also asked to provide a list of accessible defibrillators within the Town and to also look at whether a defibrillator was available at Leigh Park.

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QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY (Min 51 – 23.07.21)

The Committee Officer submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as **Appendix E** to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The report detailed suggested trees that could be planted at the Redcotts Lodge entrance to the Recreation Ground as part of the commemorations of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

After a lengthy discussion the Committee agreed that an ornamental winter flowering cherry would be a suitable tree for the entrance. With regard to the existing cherry tree near to the Petanque court, if the tree surgeon was of the view that it should be removed, a multi-stemmed silver birch tree be planted in its place. Before replacing the tree, the Town Clerk should also be asked to consult a tree specialist to establish whether the proposed trees are suitable for the intended sites. The preferred planting date for the wintering cherry would be October 2021.

So far as the 60 trees that had been acquired from the Woodland Trust, the Committee asked that the Officers approach Dorset Council to establish whether it would like them for the new SANGs. Other options suggested were to approach the owner of Willow Walk, the open communal land between the skatepark and the Parmiter allotments. Colehill Parish Council could be approached to consider whether a site on the common land at Northleigh Lane could accommodate a small, wooded area.

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DOG WARDEN PATROLS

The Committee Officer submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as **Appendix F** to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The report informed the Committee that the Grounds Team had now undergone training in issuing Fixed Penalty Notices for litter and dog fouling infringements in the recreation grounds which would commence shortly.

Any decision as to whether to resume the contract with the Dorset Council Dog Warden service would be deferred until the next budget meeting in January.

FUTURE OF QUEEN ELIZABETH LEISURE CENTRE

The Committee Officer submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as **Appendix G** to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The report detailed the review and consultation currently being undertaken by Dorset Council as to its future involvement with the Leisure Centre which was located in the parish of Pamphill

The Committee strongly believed that the Town Council must show itself to be an advocate for the residents of the parish and object in the strongest terms to Dorset Council's proposals to withdraw funding for the Leisure Centre. In particular, it was concerned that no leisure infrastructure had been put in place for the new housing developments and that the proposed Sports Village at Parmiter would not compensate for the facilities lost if the Leisure Centre became unavailable to the public. The swimming pool at QELC was particularly beneficial to the community being longer than other pools in the immediate area.

Cllr Bartlett reported that he was attempting to arrange a meeting between himself and the Dorset Council Portfolio Holder for Customer & Community Services, Cllr Jill Haynes.

The Committee did not wish to complete the survey until further information was available and requested that the Town Clerk be asked to:

- a) Set up Task & Finish Group – possibly from members of the Committee.
- b) Obtain feedback from Dorset Council Ward Members from the briefing meeting that they had attended.
- c) Obtain background reports from Dorset Council to include information on what other leisure facilities were referred to, what was their capacity and cost, were the facilities comparable with QELC, what was the proportion of Dorset Council funding being spent on QELC compared to, say, Weymouth.
- d) Establish the chronology – was the deadline of 7 November applicable to the Town Council?
- e) how long did the Town Council have to object?
- f) Liaise with Pamphill Parish Council.
- g) Convene an Extraordinary Town Council meeting to discuss this matter once the Task & Finish Group had reported on this matter.

The meeting closed at 11.26 am.

SignedDate.....
Town Mayor and Chairman of the Council

RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE

Date: 24 September 2021

Reference: Item 2: Recreation Grounds Inspection

Author: Committee Officer

The inspection of Leigh Park Playing Field and Redcotts Recreation Ground was carried out by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Head Groundsman and the Committee Officer on Wednesday, 15 September 2021. Findings are below:

Leigh Park Playing Field

The rugby pitch had been marked out for the new season by the Grounds Team. It was noted that the surface was quite bumpy, but other than occasional mowing by the Grounds Team (when requested) maintenance of the pitch was carried out by the Rugby Club.

The lower branches of the conifers at the rear of the playing field had been removed. However, the area underneath the trees was still being used as a meeting place for youths and the ground was strewn with litter. The area was regularly cleared by the Grounds Team. The Groundsman had a spare bin which he would secure under the trees to see if that improved the littering situation.



It had previously been identified that the Adventure Playground would benefit from at least one picnic bench. As a temporary measure one of the benches from Redcotts had been moved to Leigh over the summer and placed in the Adventure Playground. Within days someone moved the bench to the back of the park. It has now been returned to Redcotts. However, residents and users of Leigh Park have asked for a permanent bench. Prices for a suitable bench would be sought.

The chain on the broken swing at the Adventure Playground had finally been repaired by the supplier of the equipment.

The groundsheet under the woodchip where the basket swing is located had been exposed. The Grounds Team would attempt to rectify this.



A quote is still awaited to replace some of the rotten fencing surrounding the Adventure Playground.

The small roundabout in the toddler play area was not rotating properly. An inspection by the manufacturer would be arranged.



The grounds team would place some topsoil along the edges of the safety surface and grass, adding grass seed to alleviate any trip hazards.



Further weed and feed treatments were needed on the grass to the front of the Community Centre. This would be done when rain was due to avoid the grass being harmed.

Redcotts Recreation Ground

The Recreation Ground was looking neat and tidy and the pitches were in good condition.

The new goal posts, which met the current BSI requirements, had been installed on the main pitch and football matches for the new season had now commenced. A sign would be attached to the triangle to try to discourage members of the public from trying to move it, which involved lifting out the goalposts which were very heavy.

A complaint had been received, both by the Chairman and the Office, of someone carrying out football training and kicking a ball against the school rear wall. This was a nuisance to the neighbours but as yet it was not known who was responsible.

The toilets were inspected and were clean and tidy.

The skate ramp and boards around the tennis courts had been subjected to graffiti. *This matter is dealt with in further detail as a separate item on the Agenda.*

There was a small amount of damage to the surface of the skate ramp.



The wildflower areas were looking unkempt and would be cut back once insect life in the area had diminished, probably in October. Notices explaining that this was a natural wildlife area would be produced for next year. *The on-going maintenance of the wildflower areas appears as a separate item on the Agenda.*

The summer bedding plants in the pots that the Groundsman had planted up were now coming to the end of their life and the pots would be planted up for the autumn.

The grass tennis courts had now been closed for the winter and the nets and posts removed. Consideration should be given to cementing the posts into the ground to make them more secure before opening the courts for next year's summer season. New nets should also be budgeted for.

No one appeared to have used the croquet lawn.

Additional bulbs, especially bluebells, would be planted in the north field amongst the jubilee wood trees.

Bike racks were due to be installed near to the School Lane entrance.

A quote to repair the concrete base of the roundhouse was awaited.

The beech tree overhanging a neighbouring property near to the petanque court was due to have the offending branches reduced. The tree surgeon would be asked for his opinion on the cherry tree in the same vicinity as well as horse chestnut trees at the Culverhayes Road entrance.

Whilst the Culverhayes entrance area was being inspected, a resident appeared and complained about the uneven ground there. The barrier that had been constructed a couple of years ago would be adapted to allow access through it by moving one of the metal posts and creating an entrance way. The areas either side of the entrance could then be blocked off to prevent pedestrians from accessing the park over the uneven ground.



The children's play area. One of the gates into the play area had been chained shut as the mechanism to close it was not working correctly. A quote to replace the relevant part was awaited from the manufacturer.

RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE

Date: 24 September 2021

Reference: Item: 3 – Redcotts Recreation Ground - Graffiti

Author: Committee Officer

As Members are aware, the skate ramp at Redcotts Recreation Ground, together with some of the wooden panels surrounding the grass tennis courts have been subject to graffiti on a number of occasions this year.

August 2021



June 2021



The following costs have been incurred in removing graffiti since July 2020:

04.12.20	Contractor	£535.00
21.07.21	Contractor	£360.00
26.08.21	Draper Penetrating Graffiti Remover 400ml x5	£ 37.10
TOTAL		£932.10

The Grounds Staff can paint over the wooden panels, but the skate ramp will require professional treatment. The contractor, Clearstone, will use a solvent to loosen the graffiti and then a softwash system using 150-degree heat to remove the graffiti.

It was frustrating that a few weeks after removing the last lot of graffiti in July that more appeared. The problem has been particularly bad during the summer of 2021. Members suggested that in a bid to save further expense that the graffiti remain untreated until after the school holidays.

However, a complaint was received by a member of the public about the offensive nature of the latest graffiti and therefore the Draper treatment was used by the Grounds Staff, but with limited success.

It is highly likely that the vandals are not skateboarders – see two separate comments from the internet - Appendix 1.

We have contacted the contractor who built the ramp, and he suggests that no preventative treatment be applied to the surface of the ramp and that, furthermore, the best way of dealing with it is to remove it as soon as possible before it 'cures'.

In an effort to resolve this problem in a cost-effective way, it is suggested that:

1. Arrangements be made to meet with skateboarders at the Recreation Ground, to get their views on the vandalism and come up with a plan to prevent it in the future.
2. Any graffiti that appears in future be removed promptly by the Grounds Team to prevent it becoming 'cured'.

However, in the meantime, Clearstone will be instructed to remove all traces of existing graffiti from the Skate ramp.

Appendix 1

Who are these skatepark vandals?

The natural reaction after seeing a vandal's markings for the first time is to ask yourself, "Who would do such a thing"? We can't help you there. But we can say this. There's a 99.999% chance that it's NOT the skateboarders and other users of the skatepark. Further to this point, and in every case that we've heard of, the local skatepark users become the City staff's biggest resource in providing tips or clues to solve the case. Why would a skateboarder vandalize one of their most prized possessions - THEIR OWN public skatepark. In our experience, visitors of the park are usually the culprits.

How to respond to skatepark graffiti?

We always recommend a City develop and implement a Skatepark Operating Plan. Topics of all kind can be addressed here, including what to do in the event of vandalism. Having a plan in place prior to an incident is time worth spending and certainly makes things easier IF it ever happens (it likely won't). As skateboarders ourselves, it hurts us to see a skatepark closed. However, as professional skatepark consultants we feel obligated to relay first-hand accounts of what has worked for others. The 3-4 clients of ours who have fenced off and closed the park for a 'reasonable' time following an incident have never seen a repeated graffiti event. It allows city staff to remove the spray paint graffiti from the skatepark surface safely while making a clear statement of cause and effect - when x happens y happens. As previously stated, it's extremely likely skaters are NOT the vandals and closing a skatepark post-graffiti event is not to punish the users. It seems to reinforce the users' sense of ownership and pride in the skatepark they call their own. "Don't mess with our park or the park will be closed for 10 days". It also reminds the users of the comradery they share as patrons of the skatepark. You'll find folks picking up trash a bit more and generally take care of the place. And there's no way the skaters are going to be ok with a visitor jeopardize the skatepark's well-being. Make sure your skatepark rules and signage have the appropriate phone numbers of emergency services and the parks department.

Extract from Public Skatepark Development Guide:

Graffiti

When the skatepark opens, the local youth will be very interested in the new facility. Skateboarders, of course, will be thrilled. Other residents will be curious and some will want to interact with the space even if they lack the skateboarding skills to use the park as intended. Graffiti can be a problem during these fledgling months as locals leave their mark on the new attraction.

Establishing a zero-tolerance policy toward graffiti starting on Day One is the best way to ensure your skatepark remains visually clean. Some communities aren't bothered by graffiti, and there are some skateparks with literally every inch covered in paint. For those communities that aren't interested in this aesthetic tone, removing graffiti immediately and consistently is the best way to send a message to those that would paint in the park that their messages won't be seen.

Denying these artists and/or vandals a showcase is the tried-and-true method for encouraging them to go elsewhere.

Sometimes a park will be utterly defaced in the course of one evening by industrious vandals. Cleaning larger marks can be time-consuming, but with the right tools the work can be done efficiently. There are several graffiti-removal products available that will meet a Parks Department's environmental requirements. Provided that the graffiti is removed immediately, before the paint has a chance to fully cure (usually within a few days), most commercial products work equally well.

Anti-graffiti coatings are not recommended as they are slippery. These coatings are only appropriate on surfaces that aren't meant to be skated on.

RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE

Date: 24 September 2021

Reference: Item: 4 – Controlled Use of Weed Killers

Author: Committee Officer

For the past few years, the Town Council has avoided the use of traditional weedkillers that contain glyphosate in order to be environmentally friendly. Natural products have been used instead, such as vinegar and salt, but these have their limitations.

It is apparent that the task of weed killing has become more time-consuming as the Grounds Team must carry it out more frequently. In the case of the wildflower areas, the inability to kill off the roots effectively after each season has led to a poor display of flowers.

Dorset Council, which has produced some very attractive wildflower areas this year, continue to use glyphosate and have issued the following statement to those councils that have raised concerns with them over the use of glyphosate:

We are passionate about being eco-friendly and we only use weedkiller when absolutely necessary. When the product is applied at the start of the growing season, we trim the areas as low as possible meaning that there are no plants for pollinators to be on when weedkilling so the product can do no harm to them. Our spray knapsacks also have a coned guard on the nozzle end which ensures that there is no drift of product allowing the spraying to be 100% accurate.

The product used on our amenity areas to control unwanted vegetation is a Glyphosate based herbicide called Roundup pro-Vantage, which is fully endorsed by the European Commission and is specifically designed to block plant enzymes and not impact on animals and people.

Our trained operatives always adhere to COSHH standards and are certificated to spray in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions; all operatives are Lantra/NTPC qualified.

You may be familiar with Roundup as it is available in pre-diluted form from your local supermarket for residential weed control.

Please follow the link to the product information guide for further guidance:

<https://d2j31icv6dlhz6.cloudfront.net/O/qABxFTJPOAWibVo2GeYn.pdf>

and the following link to the European Commission's 'glyphosate facts page' for additional peace of mind:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides/glyphosate_en

The Ground Staff would like to use this herbicide on limited occasions and the Committee is asked to support this change.

RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE

Date: 24 September 2021

Reference: Item: 5 –Redcotts Recreation Ground – Requests for Defibrillator

Author: Committee Officer

A number of requests have been received from local residents asking for the Town Council to supply a public access defibrillator at Redcotts Recreation Ground.

This type of defibrillator is designed so that anyone can use it, regardless of whether they have received any training. There are clear instructions on how to attach the defibrillator pads to the patient and these assess the heart rhythm and only instruct the user to deliver a shock if it is needed. It is not possible to deliver a shock accidentally.

The cost of a suitable defibrillator is in the region of £1200 and a suitable cabinet to store it in is just under £500. The cost could be met from the General Fund.

If supported, it is suggested that the equipment be fixed to the wall near the Tennis Club entrance.

The Committee is asked for its instructions.

RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE

Date: 24 September 2021

Reference: Item: 6 - Queen's Green Canopy

Author: Committee Officer

Following on from the meeting held in July 2021, enquiries were made of Buckingham Palace to establish the Queen's favourite tree(s). A response has been received but the Palace is unable to advise us of any preferences.

It was agreed at the last meeting that a larger project of a tree trail around the town should be referred to the whole Town Council and that the trees that formed the trail should be of an 'interesting' variety. The Town Council will consider the item in due course. In the meantime, it was decided that a single tree could initially be planted at Redcotts Recreation Ground and that, should a tree trail be established, that this would be the starting point of that trail.

Trees that have been recommended by a local landscaper are:

- Crab apple
- Cherry
- Magnolia
- Multi stem silver birch
- Acer
- Liquid Amber

The cost of the tree will very much depend on the size of the specimen planted. It could be anything from £10 to £250. The cost would be met from the Planting Fund, which currently stands at £1,034.

Examples of the recommended trees can be found in Appendix 1 to this report. The area by the main entrance gate to Redcotts Recreation Ground has already been identified as a suitable area for a tree to be planted. A suitable plaque would also be installed.

The Committee is asked for its instructions on what species of tree to plant.

Final professional advice will be sought once the Committee has indicated its preferred option.

The Committee is further asked to consider the timing of this planting. The tree planting season is between October and March. The National Association of Civic Officers is encouraging a mass tree planting by civic heads and has suggested a date of **Friday 11 March**, which is the 70th day of the year 2022. However, this date is not definite at this stage.

The Committee is asked whether it wishes to wait until this date to plant the tree, or whether it wishes to press ahead and plant in October 2021.

On a final note, the Town Council applied for free trees from the Woodland Trust and 60 have been allocated to it and will be delivered in early November consisting of small copse saplings. There may be some room at Redcotts but clearly not for 60 trees. Neighbouring parishes have in the past offered the free trees to parishioners to plant in their own gardens. **The Committee's instructions are required.**

Suggested trees

Crab apple – life span 100 years; mature trees grow to 10m in height.



Cherries – multiple varieties – tend to be shorter lifespan - 15-30 years, but Japanese cherry trees can live for hundreds of years; small varieties grow to about 4m, larger ones can grow to about 25 metres.



Magnolia – flowers can be white, pink, red, purple or yellow. Fragrant. 3m – 25 m.
Life span – 80-120 years.



Multi-stemmed (Himalayan) birch – 6m in height. 40-80 years life span.



Acer – multiple varieties – 2.5m – 6 m. Life span – over 100 years.



Liquid Amber – fast growing to about 25m. Invasive roots. Lifespan – about 400 years.



RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE

Date: 24 September 2021

Reference: Item: 7 – Dog Warden Patrols Contract

Author: Committee Officer

Members will recall that at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 22 January 2021 it was decided not to renew the Dog Warden Patrol Contract and that this decision should be reviewed in October 2021.

The Grounds Team has recently undergone the appropriate training with Dorset Council Officers to enable the Team to issue fixed penalty notices for the failure by a member of the public to comply with a Public Space Protection Order relating to litter, including dog faeces.

The Town Clerk is suggesting that a decision by the Town Council as to whether to resume the Dorset Council Dog Warden services be deferred until the next budget meeting in January 2022. This would allow a reasonable period of time to elapse to assess how effective the new system is.

RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE

Date: 24 September 2021

Reference: Item: 8 – Future of Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre

Author: Committee Officer

As part of its wider Leisure Review, Dorset Council is currently considering whether to continue to provide funding for the Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre (QELC). The Centre is not under the ownership of Dorset Council although that Council manages the site through a dual user agreement and has an ongoing joint liability with the school for both revenue costs and capital investment.

Dorset Council's Leisure Services is currently subsidising QELC by around £550,000 per annum, which is far higher than any of the eight leisure centres owned by the Council. The funding at QELC equates to 33.3% of the Council's total leisure centres budget and raises the question as to whether this provides value for money.

Other public leisure facilities are within a 20-minute drive of QELC, as well as private and budget leisure clubs within a 10-mile radius. The BH Live leisure centre in Corfe Mullen has attracted a high number of local users who are able to have full access to facilities without the restrictions of a school having priority use.

Under the contract, Dorset Council has the right to give written notice to Queen Elizabeth's School Foundation Trustees to withdraw from the management agreement, giving at least two years' notice. If this were to happen then Queen Elizabeth's School has confirmed that it wouldn't be able to operate a full leisure facility due to financial constraints.

To fully understand the impact on users, clubs and stakeholders that the withdrawal from the management agreement by Dorset Council would have, that Council is launching a consultation by way of a survey:

<https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=162877757467>

The consultation will close on Sunday, 7 November 2021 with a final decision made by Dorset Council members in early 2022.

The Committee is asked for its instructions on how it wishes to proceed.