

LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES
22 NOVEMBER 2018

To: John Bevan (Chairman) Gordon Nicholson
Ken Ayling Mary Sartin
Mike Garnett Claudia Webbe
Christine Hamilton

Apologies Received From: Keith Warnell

Officers Present: Simon Sheldon - Director of Finance & Resources
Dan Buck - Head of Sport & Leisure
Jon Carney - Head of Parklands
Lindsey Johnson - Committee Services Officer

Also Present: Nigel Foxall - Lee Valley Leisure Trust Ltd
Michael Sterry - Lee Valley Leisure Trust Ltd
1 Member of the Public

Part I

154 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

| Name | Agenda Item No. | Nature of Interest | <i>Prejudicial</i> |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---|--------------------------|
| <i>Gordon Nicholson</i> | 5 | <i>Member of Broxbourne Borough Council</i> | <i>Non-Prejudicial</i> ✓ |
| <i>Ken Ayling</i> | 5 | <i>Member of Broxbourne Borough Council</i> | <i>Non-Prejudicial</i> |

155 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2018 be approved and signed.

156 PUBLIC SPEAKING

No requests from the public to speak or present petitions had been received for this meeting.

157 SCRUTINY SCORECARD 2018/19 Q2

Paper S/47/18

The Head of Sport & Leisure introduced the report.

Members had earlier heard a Trust Service Delivery Workshop presentation and noted that what was said in the presentation did not tie in with what had been detailed in Paper S/47/18. Officers responded stating that Paper S/47/18 focusses on the Authority and is current and the presentation focussed on the Lee Valley Leisure Trust and is a year-end review.

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Members were informed that Bike Works had moved into the Lee Valley Velopark after Cycle Surgery had left and that they would help to off-set an income deficit.

Officers informed Members that we are currently finalising terms for a new cycle operator at Gunpowder Park and it should be completed in Spring 2019.

A Member asked if it was possible to break down the usage and customer satisfaction scores by ethnicity and disability. Officers replied that usage could be easily split but satisfaction would be more difficult and might not give reliable data. The new Leisure Services Contract will give more in depth breakdown of figures from 2020.

A Member asked why we had lost our Greenflag and Heritage status at Ryehouse. The Head of Parklands replied that this was down to a judge's view that our management plan was not of a good enough standard, even though it is the same management plan that we use at all of our other sites that have been awarded a Greenflag. We have gone from an 'excellent' score to a 'fail' and have questioned the decision, although it cannot be changed for this year. We will consider whether we wish to apply for a Greenflag for that site next year.

Members asked about the money made from car parking machines and their maintenance. The Head of Parklands responded stating that we have currently got £18,000 net profit. We are currently far below our projected forecast for profit which is why next year's budget will be set at the same rate. Many of the machines have been vandalised, if this keeps happening we may have to consider cash-less machines. Members agreed that it would be best if there could still be the option to pay for car parking with cash.

A Member asked if the good summer weather had increased visitor numbers. The Head of Sport & Leisure explained that it had but there were also a number of new initiatives that the Lee Valley Leisure Trust had enacted, big sporting events and festivals.

The Chairman asked if the Quest review at Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre had happened. Officers replied that it had and it had gone well. Officers will be looking to speak with Quest to ask that they check before visiting to make sure that there aren't any big events going on before turning up.

The Chairman noted that there was a low cleanliness score and mentioned how he had recently seen a lot of litter at Tottenham Marshes around all sides of the allotment areas. The Head of Sport & Leisure replied that the low score was down to graffiti rather than litter. The Head of Parklands also stated that in some areas litter is only picked up once a month, but if Members notice anywhere that is bad, they should contact us.

A Member asked if fly tipping was an issue. Officers replied that we have more trouble in the north of the Park and we had currently spent around £70,000 clearing it this year. We do try to investigate who is responsible for the fly tipping.

(1) the report was noted.

Nigel Foxall and Michael Sterry left the meeting.

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158 HOLYFIELD HALL FARM UPDATE

Paper S/46/18

The Head of Parklands introduced the report explaining that everything suggested by the consultants had been accomplished and reminded Members that changes to the dairy herd would take 2 years to implement and changes to arable farming would take 1 year to implement.

A Member asked about the redundant buildings. The Head of Parklands responded stating that these were old barns that were not appropriate for modern farming. There is an idea to convert them to offices or housing but at the moment officers are tied up with other projects and don't have the resources to look at this.

A Member asked about why the timesheets for staff had not been done yet. The Head of Parklands responded stating that we had been making changes to the staffing structure, this had now been done and the timesheets have been implemented.

A Member asked about whether the farmhouse was in use. The Head of Parklands responded stating that it is currently unoccupied, we want to refurbish it, then move the current tenant in the annexe into the farmhouse and refurbish the annexe. The Farmhouse is not required by the Farm so we would look to rent it out to the public. The works have been priced up and are currently being looked at by officers to ensure that it represents good value for money.

A Member asked about the milk machines. The Head of Parklands responded stating that there have been less problems this year as it has become part of daily routine for staff. The manufacturers of the machines do not currently make them to accept credit cards.

(1) the report was noted.

159 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman informed Members that due to the work load of officers dealing with large projects, he has agreed to suspend any scrutiny projects until such time that the workload has reduced. There would still be Scrutiny Committee meetings to look at the Scrutiny Scorecard report.

Chairman

Date

The meeting started at 2.20pm and ended at 2.55pm.