

PRESENT: Cllrs: B. Mead (Chair), T. Mewies, E. Adjeivi D. Boardman, J. Baverstock, A. Doyle, B Dewfall, D. Harris, A. Kenyon, A. Bird, J. Molloy, A. Monk

ALSO, PRESENT: Simon Davies (Town Clerk), Robert Hutton (Deputy Clerk), Peach Jones (Town Council Support Officer) Joanna Ward (Locum Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Cllrs: S. Milestone

MEETING STARTED AT 7:02PM

0758. EVACUATION PROCEDURES: Noted.

0759. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies noted. – Cllr Milestone.

0760. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

- a. Cllr Doyle declared Sections d and e of Item 21 (0778) as a personal interest as they are a board member of Circadian Trust.
- b. None declared.
- c. None declared.

0761. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS OR PUBLIC: It was resolved by the council to exclude the press and public from Sections d, e and f of Item 21 (0775).

0762. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: The Chair invited questions from the public.

Residents queried if there was a timescale for the pool to be open. The Town Clerk advised that this question would be covered on Item 21 of the Agenda, where the Business Manager would give an update on Leisure Centre development.

Public Question Time ended : 19.08.

0763. MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL (FINANCE & GENERAL) MEETING HELD TUESDAY 9TH

APRIL 2025: It was proposed by Cllr Doyle and seconded by Cllr Boardman for council to approve and for the Chair to sign the minutes of the previous meeting. – **Vote:** Unanimously passed.

0764. MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL (FINANCE & GENERAL) MEETING HELD TUESDAY 11TH

MARCH 2025: It was proposed by Cllr Boardman for council to approve and for the Chair to sign the minutes preceding the previous meeting upon agreed remedy of a typo of Rannoch Rd. – **Vote:** Passed. - 4 Abstentions.

0765. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT OTHERWISE INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA: None.

0766. ECOLOGY RANGER TO WORK WITH THE HEAD RANGER TO DESIGN AN ANNUAL GRASS CUTTING SCHEDULE, TO PROMOTE A POSITIVE BIODIVERSITY OF ELM PARK AND MILLENNIUM GREEN (EXCEPTIONS OF FOOTBALL PITCHES, GYM EQUIPMENT AREA, AND FILTON COMMUNITY GARDEN IN LINE WITH MOTIONS HELD IN PREVIOUS YEARS): The concept is to appoint temporary leisure services.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Baverstock and seconded by Cllr Boardman with note that last years grass cutting schedule received good feedback. – **Vote:** Passed unanimously.

0767. FILTON ATHLETIC'S PROPOSAL TO RENAME THE FOOTBALL PITCH AFTER THEIR MAIN SPONSOR DURING MATCHES ONLY FOLLOWING REFURBISHMENT OF THE PITCH – (ANNEX A)

The Deputy Clerk and the Town Clerk answered questions from Cllr Molloy, Monk and Boardman regarding the proposal of the renaming of the football pitch after their main sponsor: 'BBS North' and refurbishment requirements to play.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Cllr Boardman and seconded by Cllr Doyle to agree on the name change with amendment that the name still contains 'Elm Park' to promote use of the pitch by other teams should they wish to book. With agreement on the pitch being renamed to 'BBS North at Elm Park' during matches only. – **Vote:** Passed. - 1 Against.

0768. PITCH FENCING AND MOBILE DUG OUT QUOTES FOR REFURBISHMENT OF FOOTBALL PITCH AT REQUEST OF FILTON ATHLETIC FC – (ANNEX B1, B2, B3)

The Deputy Clerk presented to the council, quotes of fencing and dug out costs including collapsable and permanent structure and seating quantity options. Questions were answered relating to liability of use in the contract policy and risks relating to structure quality and budget.

The Town Clerk advised councillors that a pressure point with regard to season time approaching as well as the upcoming Annual General Meeting along with the re-opening of the Leisure Centre. Not deciding on this item now may mean Filton loses out on bringing Filton Athletic home to play this year and a possible issue of needing to pay more next year at different rates.

The Town Clerk clarified Filton Town Council would own the equipment and Filton Athletic would need to maintain the equipment (Dug Outs.)

RESOLVED: Cllr Boardman Proposed to appoint a working group to iron out questions regarding the £38,000 + VAT Budget next week. – Cllrs Baverstock, Molloy, Bird and Boardman to attend. – **Vote:** Passed unanimously.

0769. POLICE UPDATES ON ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR/COUNTY LINES RUNNING ACROSS ELM PARK DURING THE WEEKEND 3RD MAY. – (ANNEX C)

NOTED: The Support Officer presented the submitted Monthly Beat Report from PC Pretlove to Council and gave an update on the lack of reports received by Police regarding drug dealing in the Elm Park area and the bike chase occurred during the weekend – 3rd of May.

0770. THE TOWN CLERK TO WORK WITH LOCAL POLICE TO RESTRICT ACCESS TO ELM PARK BY USING GATES LIKE THOSE IN MILLENNIUM GREEN, IN ORDER TO PREVENT ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR; AND TO GAIN QUOTES FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

The council discussed their views on restricting access to Elm Park with the possibility of installing anti-bike gates to pedestrian access areas of up to 10 sites at the edges of the field.

Cllr Boardman is in support of introducing the anti-bike gates similar to Millennium Green as it appears that problems with that park area have reduced since installation.

It was suggested that some entrance/exit points could have alternative anti-bike measures put in place but this will need further investigation. Concerns from councillors were raised as restricting access may mean blocking off access to all bikes in general and particular placements of each anti-bike gate.

The Town Clerk clarified that it is difficult to restrict access to all forms of transport as unfortunately there isn't a one size fits all and agreed it is difficult to stop e-scooters and dirt bikes vs push bikes.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Cllr Doyle and seconded by Cllr Boardman, Council agreed to implementation of anti-bike gates similar to those at Millenium Green to improve safety of people using the park and to deter use of e-scooters and dirt bikes in Elm Park.

0771. INTERNAL AUDIT 2024-2025 - SEVERAL ACTION POINTS FROM THE INTERNAL AUDIT; WORK UNDERWAY BY LOCUM CLERK – (ANNEX D1)

The Locum Clerk addressed matters stemming from the recent audit and highlighted priority take-aways from the report and how these are being worked into the Audit Tracker as a working document. Cllr Boardman questioned if any of the issues stemmed from change of staff and a target date for resolve.

NOTED: The Locum Clerk confirmed that any issues which have cropped up in the audit are able to be corrected, with the target date settled for the 10th June 2025 as a hard deadline overall.

0772. ACTION POINTS FROM AUDIT AND WORK UNDERWAY – (ANNEX D2)

NOTED: The Town Clerk presented the Audit Tracker which will also be available for councillors to review. Promising regular updates and push publication when updates occur.

0773. PROJECT UPDATES – PROJECTS BEING IMPLEMENTED AND DELIVERED

NOTED: The Deputy Clerk gave a presentation with an update on all work in progress projects so far to date. Such as removal and re-installation of the outdoor gym equipment. Development of the MUST project. Improvement of the exterior grass verges surrounding the bike racks by the Open Spaces Team including the plan of planting more trees within areas of Elm Park and Millennium Green.

Question from Cllrs Baverstock, Molloy and Doyle arose with regard to the 50 trees would be additional or a part of the 50 trees from South Gloucestershire Council. Understanding the Key in the plans for where the trees will be planted with what type of tree and if there are any plans for trees to be planted along Conygre Road.

0774. TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP TO OVERSEE THE PREPARATION FOR FILTON FESTIVAL 2025

RESOLVED: It was voted that Cllrs Baverstock, Mead and Mewies attend the working group. With a motion added by Cllr Doyle, seconded by Cllr Baverstock that any Cllr with interest to attend should email the Deputy Clerk. – **Vote:** Passed unanimously.

0775. GRANT FOR £1200 CAB SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE FOR THE ADVICE CENTRES FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY THE CLOSURE OF LEISURE CENTRE SITE – (ANNEX E1)

RESOLVED: It was agreed by council that the grants were within budget for the funded sessions held by Citizens Advice for those affected by the closure of the Leisure Centre. – **Vote:** Passed unanimously.

0776. REPORT OF ATTENDANCE FOR ADVICE SESSIONS AROUND ACTIVE NATION CEASING TO TRADE ONSITE – (ANNEX E2)

NOTED: The Town Clerk presented the report with figures of how many were in attendance of the funded sessions around Active Nation ceasing the trade onsite.

0777. RELEASE OF FUNDS TO PARTLY SETTLE FINAL AMOUNT DUE FROM FILTON TOWN COUNCIL TO SPELLAR METCALF. £63,047 DUE NOW WITH THE REMAINING £10,000 DUE AFTER REMAINING DEFECT ITEMS RESOLVED.

Questions were raised by councillors with regards to the cracks on the staircase.

The Town Clerk clarified the Speller Metcalfe bill is for the building.

RESOLVED: Cllr Boardman proposed not to release funds to speller Metcalfe until the issues have been rectified. – **Vote:** Passed unanimously.

0778. LEISURE CENTRE UPDATE

- a. **NOTED:** A presentation was given by the Business Manager on the work-in-progress improvements to the Leisure Centre facilities and steps taken to prepare for a successful re-opening. Engagement initiatives have been confirmed.

- b. **TO OPEN THE LEISURE CENTRE FOR PUBLIC USE BEFORE 31ST MAY 2025**

NOTED: Cllr Molloy raised if there has been any progress made on the membership lists being obtained and if there would be any update on a public statement.

- The Town Clerk advised that there will be an updated statement to be published imminently and the town clerk is negotiating with solicitors to push for obtaining the membership lists from Active Nation's outsourced administrative company. – **Vote:** Passed unanimously.

- c. **FILTON TOWN COUNCIL TO COMMIT TO PAYING MONTHLY DEFICIT FOR OPERATING THE LEISURE CENTRE UNTIL A LONG-TERM PROVIDER IS IN PLACE**
RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Monk and seconded by Cllr Doyle to commit to the above. Cllr Boardman queried if there was a cap to the deficit figure. The Town Clerk advised that the council has every intention to work well with the next long term provider to cultivate a positive working relationship and make place for contractual bindings to counteract any further deficit. – **Vote:** Passed unanimously.

COUNCIL ENTERED CLOSED SESSION 8:25PM

- d. **TO APPROVE THE SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT (SLA) – (ANNEX F)**
NOTED: The Town Clerk gave an update on Circadian Trust providing the service level agreement.
- e. **TO SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS FOR THE DURATION OF THE MEETING (ONLY).**
RESOLVED: This was on advice of the Town Clerk as the original decision of the Council was taken within the last six months.
- f. **SERVICE PROVIDER BRIEFING**
NOTED: An update was given on Parkwood Leisure being the next best option as a contender in bid for being the Leisure Centre Provider.

Questions arose from Cllrs Dewfall, Monk, Boardman and Molloy on Parkwood Leisure being aware of accepting the proposal of Leisure Centre Provider with the idea of being a long term provider. If staff will be taken on by Parkwood Leisure and if an acceptable goodwill offer would be on the table.

The Town Clerk encouraged that Filton Town Council should stay a community minded council and that the logistics of legally needing insurance and a bank account to trade has made this venture difficult. It was confirmed that staff will be handled within the regulation of Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment (*TUPE*) over and Parkwood Leisure are happy to take the initiatives with regard to a community focussed delivery.

RESOLVED: Filton Town Council to accept Parkwood Leisure as the preferred short term leisure provider for the Elm Park Leisure Centre.

RECORDED VOTE:	
YES	NOT RECORDED
Cllr Mead	Cllr Milestone
Cllr Mewies	Cllr Doyle
Cllr Baverstock	
Cllr Molloy	
Cllr Monk	
Cllr Boardman	
Cllr Kenyon	
Cllr Bird	
Cllr Harris	
Cllr Dewfall	
Cllr Adjeivi	

- g. **PLAN FOR ONWARD OPERATIONS ONSITE**
RESOLVED: Cllr Monk proposed a motion for a regular cash flow register with a forecast of predicted payments to monitor these from in support of accepting Parkwood as Filton's Leisure Centre Provider. – **Vote:** Passed unanimously.

0779. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TBC

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.50PM

