

Minutes of the Meeting of **FILTON TOWN COUNCIL FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES** held at 7:00p.m on **Wednesday 9th of April 2025**, Studio 1, Active Nation, Filton, Elm Park, Bristol, BS34 7PS

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

ALSO, PRESENT: Simon Davies (Town Clerk), Robert Hutton (Deputy Clerk), Maria Goodwin (Minutes)

APOLOGIES: Cllrs: B Dewfall, E Adjeivi, Peach Jones (Town Council Support Officer)

MEETING STARTED AT 19:02PM

0740. EVACUATION PROCEDURES: Noted.

0741. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies noted.

0742. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

- a. Cllr Doyle declared Item 16 & 17 (0755 & 0756) as a personal interest.
- b. Cllrs Malloy, Baverstock, Mewies & Monk declared Item 16 (0755) as a personal interest.
- c. None

0743. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS OR PUBLIC: It was resolved to exclude the press and public from item 16 (0755).

0744. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: The Clerk gave a brief overview on the latest position with Active Nation and the Leisure Centre, his role in this matter, the work undertaken since being made aware of this and gave thanks to those involved in helping to resolve this complex situation. The Clerk advised the Council will be funding some free advice via the Citizens Advice Bureau for those wishing to seek advice on their personal position and details of any Administrator will be communicated when this information is received.

Questions were invited from the public. Residents and gym members raised concerns including how their memberships would be affected, that members may be reluctant to sign up again, how the loan will be repaid to the Treasury and how this may affect the Council, what will happen to the Leisure Centre staff, what are the time frames for reopening, who owns the gym equipment, how membership/service payments will be proved when receipts were not provided, whether the Council can now run the centre, if new membership contracts can be negotiated by the Council, if the Council could monitor any new provider and what lessons have been learned. Suggestions were offered including asking the community for help, if an insurance policy could be considered to protect members payments in the future and if advice from Citizens Advice could be collated and shared with members.

The Clerk explained that this is a very complex situation and professional advice is still being sought in regard to some of these questions. Attempts are being made to reopen the facility as soon as possible and to lessen the impact for members and staff. Reassurance was given that a number of providers had shown an interest in assisting to keep the Leisure Centre open and short-term tenders were being presented at this meeting. Once appointed the Administrator may be able to assist with membership questions, but funds and terms with Active Nation may not be honoured. There are approx. 4,500 members and there is no access to the membership database currently. It is hoped to have access to this very soon to enable communications to members. Loan repayments will now need to be paid by the

Council and a contingency is in place in the short term. The gym equipment is owned by the Council. A factsheet will be prepared by Citizens Advice and communicated out. It was agreed that lessons can be learned from this.

Public Question Time ended : 19.53.

0745. MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL (FINANCE & GENERAL) MEETING HELD TUESDAY 11th March 2025: Not covered.

0746. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT OTHERWISE INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA: None.

0747. THE COUNCIL TO APPOINT A CONTRACTOR TO PROVIDE LEISURE SERVICES FOR 3 TO 6 MONTHS: The concept is to appoint temporary leisure services.
RESOLVED: Agreed

0748. THE COUNCIL TO RENAME THE LEISURE CENTRE TO ELM PARK LEISURE CENTRE WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT. THE LEISURE CENTRE CAN BE RENAMED UPON COMMENCEMENT OF A SHORT-TERM CONTRACT IF REQUIRED AND IN AGREEMENT OF THE COUNCIL: The Council raised a concern regarding the cost of new signage.
RESOLVED: Elm Park Leisure Centre name agreed and any new signage costs to be kept to a minimum and for signage to be reusable.

0749. THE COUNCIL TO WRITE A TENDER FOR LONG TERM PROVISION OF LEISURE SERVICES AT THE LEISURE CENTRE: The Council discussed the provision of tender to develop a system and plan for long term provision of leisure services at the leisure centre and to ensure lessons are learned.
RESOLVED: The Council to engage work in seeking tenders to develop a system and plan for the provision of long-term leisure services at the leisure centre and to ensure lessons are learned. Budget to be attached after appointment of a consultant and blind tender agreed.

0750. THE COUNCIL TO OPERATE A LEISURE SERVICE, CALLED ELM PARK LEISURE, UNTIL THE COMMENCEMENT OF A SHORT OR LONG-TERM LEISURE PROVIDER CONTRACT: Amendment requested to add 'if legally'. Approved.
RESOLVED: Agreed.

0751. THE COUNCIL TO ALLOCATE A BUDGET OF £15,000 TOWARDS OPENING COSTS: Start up expense summary shared. Building insurance noted.
RESOLVED: Council agreed to the budget with funds coming from the Special Expenses Fund.

0752. THE COUNCIL TO GATHER QUOTES FOR A TENDER TO PROVISION PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT SERVICES, TO BE PRESENTED TO THE FINANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IN JUNE 2025: The Council discussed the benefits consultants can bring by helping to manage and structure complex tenders and contracts and providing support throughout.
RESOLVED: Agreed for quotes to be sought.

- 0753. THE COUNCIL TO REQUEST THE ASSETS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE PRESENT A MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE MUGA's, CAR PARK AND OTHER ASSETS COVERED BY THE PREVIOUS LEISURE CONTRACT:** It was noted that the Assets & Open Spaces Committee is not in place until June.
RESOLVED: Modification requested for this to be from June - agreed. Council request the Assets & Open Spaces Committee present a management plan for Muga's, car park and other assets covered by the previous leisure contract in June 2025.
- 0754. THE FINANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TO ESTABLISH COMMUNICATIONS WITH ANY APPOINTED OFFICIAL TO RECOVER OUTSTANDING COSTS, MEMBERSHIP AND FEES FROM THE PREVIOUS LEISURE PROVIDER. FINANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TO HAVE OVERSIGHT OF ANY RECOVERY PROCESS AND AUTHORISED TO REQUEST THE TOWN CLERK TO TAKE ANY NECESSARY ACTION TO SUPPORT RECOVERY IF NEEDED. THE COMMITTEE TO REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL ON A MONTHLY BASIS ANY PROGRESS:** Council discussed whether a maximum budget should be set.
RESOLVED: It was agreed that this will be reconsidered in June 25.
- 0755. PRESENTATION FROM POTENTIAL PROVIDERS FOR LEISURE PROVISION FOR 3-6 MONTHS (excluding press and public):** Cllr Doyle left the room. Three presentations were made. All for provision of short-term leisure provision.
RESOLVED: The council voted to proceed with Elm Park Leisure Ltd with consultancy support services provided by Circadian Trust.
- 0756. THE SUCCESSFUL BID FOR 3-6 MONTH LEISURE PROVISION TO BE REVIEWED BY EITHER FULL COUNCIL OR FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE (OR FINANCE & SCRUTINY) BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION:**
RESOLVED: Agreed.
- 0757. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** TBC

The meeting closed at 22.25.