

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3

Minutes of a meeting of the Mepal Outdoor Centre Working Party held in the Committee Room 2, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely on 6th October 2017 at 10.05am.

PRESENT

Councillor Bill Hunt (Chairman)
Councillor Lorna Dupré
Councillor Lisa Stubbs

OTHERS

Emma Grima – Director, Commercial
Victor Le Grand – Senior Leisure Services Officer
Janis Murfet – Democratic Services Officer

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

7. MINUTES

Further to Minute No. 3 (Exclusion of the Public including Representatives of the Press), Councillor Dupré said she felt the way in which her query was worded suggested that she thought the meetings should be in private session, and this was not the case.

It was agreed that the sentence be revised to read “*Councillor Dupré queried why the meeting could not be held in public.*” Whereupon,

It was resolved:

That subject to the agreed amendment, the Minutes of the meeting of the Mepal Outdoor Centre Working Party held on 31st July 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Stubbs joined the meeting at 10.07am.

8. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman did not make any announcements.

However, it was noted that the Chief Executive had offered apologies due to family circumstances, and the Chairman asked that the Working Party's best wishes be conveyed to him.

9. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRESS**

It was resolved:

That the press and public be excluded during the consideration of the remaining items no's 6 and 7 because it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during the item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information of Category 3 of Part I Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

10. **CLARIFICATIONS AND EVALUATION**

The Working Party considered an Exempt report, reference S151, previously circulated, from which Members were asked to review the expressions of interest received for the future operation of the Mepal Outdoor centre and site.

The Senior Leisure Services Officer said that while there had initially been a great deal of interest from individuals and organisations, only ten submissions were received. They were independently evaluated by the Senior Leisure Services Officer and the Infrastructure & Strategy Manager; Appendix 1 to the report set out the criteria, benchmark descriptors and weightings.

Of the submissions received, four could be reasonably put forward for further consideration and they were detailed in paragraphs 4.4.1 – 4.4.4 of the report. It was noted that their submissions were attached as Appendix 2 and the Lead Officer's evaluation sheets for each as Appendix 3.

The Working Party discussed the possibility of extending the period for receiving expressions of interests in order to encourage a wider response. It was agreed that the Council might be best served by going down this route, but the Chairman queried whether widening the net would have any implications. The Senior Leisure Officer replied that he did not foresee any problems as long as the process was applied fairly; however, he would take advice.

It was acknowledged that with the reopening of the process, the timetable would slip and this in turn would influence when the report on the preferred partner would be taken to Full Council.

The Senior Leisure Officer would need sufficient time to invite further expressions of interest and evaluate the submissions, and then the timetable would be amended in consultation with the Chairman.

In the light of this, it was agreed that because of the complexities involved, the meeting of the Working Party scheduled for November would be cancelled and

the clarification and evaluation meeting rearranged for 10.00am on 18th December 2017.

It was resolved:

1. That the recommendation, as set out in the report, be agreed;
2. That the further recommendations, as discussed at the meeting, be agreed.

11. EXEMPT MINUTES

It was resolved:

That the Exempt Minutes of the meeting of the Mepal Outdoor Centre Working Party held on 31st July 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The meeting concluded at 11.00am.