

**Leighton/Linslade & District Sports Council. Awards Ceremony & Committee Meeting.**

**Held at The White House Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019.**

**1. Present.** Councillor Clive Palmer(Town Mayor), Councillor Karen Cursons, Cyd Smith(Chairperson), Gordon Fletcher(Joint Chairperson), Jim Cornell(Acting Secretary), Nick Pinder(Treasurer), Peter Crisp, Richard Peterson, Chris Beer, Martin King, Elizabeth(Bid) Scott, Darren Winfield, Rob Bennett, Adrian Stephenson, Stuart Oliver, Clare Fitzboydon, Tom Miller, James Bliss, Sean Hemming and Dan Turney.

**2. Apologies.** Andrew Screech, Allan Whatmore (Elizabeth Scott represented the Cricket Club).

**3. Awards.** The Chairperson invited Councillor Palmer to present a “service to Sport” Award to Rob Bennett in recognition of his outstanding work to the Athletic Club (30 years) and for his contribution to the Sports Council over almost two decades. Rob thanked the Mayor for the award.

The Mayor then presented Grant Awards to:

Chris Beer. Leighton Buzzard Rugby Football Club. Individual award.

Peter Crisp on behalf of Leighton Buzzard Hockey Club.

Darren Winfield On behalf of Leighton Buzzard Road Cycle Club.

Dan Turney on behalf of Leighton Town Youth Football Club.

Richard Peterson on behalf of Woodside Football Club.

Councillor Palmer emphasised the importance of sport and leisure to the community and also the significant input of volunteers. The Chairperson thanked Councillor Palmer for his contribution to the event. Councillors Palmer and Cursons then left to attend a meeting of the full council.

**4. Team Beds and Luton.** Clare Fitzboydon (Senior Relationship Manager) gave an illustrated presentation covering the focus and activities of “Team Beds & Luton” in supporting sport and leisure in the community. The organisation is 75% funded by Sport England and aims to deliver key outcomes including investments, tackling inactivity, children and young people and volunteering by translating national strategies locally. Clare described how her organisation’s web site was presently being restructured (ready in 2 months) and confirmed that the Sports Council’s web site could easily be linked to that of Team Beds & Luton. She described how the relationship with local clubs could be built by setting up meetings, identifying what help could be available in terms of provision of facilities including examining the structure of a club, its development and business plans and assistance with funding applications.

There was an emphasis on supporting 14-19 age groups but this was only part of the assistance available to clubs.

Comment was made to Clare about the historic trend of previous Sport and Leisure Development Plans over the last 3 decades having gone nowhere at all including the most recent one in 2017.

**Continued.**

## 2.

This last “plan” had been led by the Town Council and was well short on meaningful input particularly from Central Beds. Council. Although the Sports Council had given comments and input these were not even acknowledged.

Clare reminded members that her organisation arranges and manages courses on such important subjects as Safeguarding, First Aid, Sponsorship and other funding opportunities.

Cyd Smith thanked Clare for her enlightening presentation and helpful response to the questions put to her. Clare agreed to send to the Acting Secretary a copy of the “slides” used during her presentation.

**Action. Jim Cornell.**

**5. Minutes of Previous Meeting. (03/12/2018)** These were accepted by the Committee as a correct record and signed by Cyd Smith.

## **6. Matters Arising.**

**6.1 List of Sports and Leisure Clubs.** Jim Cornell had received an email from Andrew Screech on 11/01/2019 explaining that he was still working on this matter.

**6.2. Amendments to the Constitution.** Jim Cornell reported that this and the Sports Council’s other key documents were now fully updated to reflect matters discussed and agreed at recent Committee and A.G.M. meetings and were available on request.

**6.3. Development of Cycle Ways.** To be included on the next quarterly meeting with the Town and Central Beds. Councils.

**Action. Jim Cornell.**

**6.4. May Fayre Stall.** Cyd Smith and Gordon Fletcher have met with Richard Johnson (Rotary Club) and he has agreed that we can have a stall. After discussion the Committee agreed that we should use this as an opportunity to advertise the work of the Sports Council and individual member clubs’ open days and other events. Each member club to draw up its own details which then can be added to a master list. Also agreed was the procurement of 2No. “pop up” signs which Cyd Smith would arrange but first she would send members a draft proposal for comment. She would also send members more details and a questionnaire about the Fayre. **Action. Cyd Smith and Committee Members.**

Rob Bennett proposed and Sean Hemming seconded that the cost of the “pop up” signs be funded from the Sports Council’s bank account and this was agreed. Bid Scott suggested that a plan be drawn up showing the location of member sports clubs and this was agreed in principle.

It was agreed that Richard Johnson would be invited to make a presentation to the Committee’s next meeting about the Rotary Club’s “Yes We Can” initiative.

**Action. Jim Cornell.**

**6.5. Tiddenfoot. Inadequate Lighting in the Sports Hall Court No. 6.** Martin King and James Bliss described the actions taken since the December Committee meeting to resolve the outstanding issues which are still ongoing. Contacts have now been made with those who can directly resolve the problems.

**Action. Martin King and James Bliss.**

**Continued.**

### 3.

It was agreed that it would be beneficial to invite guests to present to the Sports Council an overview of their organisations and that Tiddenfoot (Stevenage Leisure) should be included on that list of invitees to enable the Sports Council to better understand what the future plans are for Tiddenfoot.

**Action. James Bliss.**

**7. Finance Report.** Nick Pinder reported that the balance at 21/01/2019 stood at £5,966.83. He confirmed that this is after deducting the grant awards presented earlier in the evening.

**8. Web Site.** Gordon Fletcher described the progress he had made in developing the Sports Council's web site. He is using wordpress.com as the basic tool. The web site will cover: home page, list of clubs, club information, list of planned events, list of club facilities, information about the Sports Council and "privacy" rules. Gordon requires information from each member club to include on the site and he will request specific details at an early date. (See subsequent email from Gordon dated 26/01/2019.)

**Action. All Member Clubs.**

The costs will be £225 set up, £20 per month hosting fees and £200 per annum for ongoing support. Gordon will develop the site for a year after which a successor will need to be found.

**Action. Gordon Fletcher.**

It was proposed that financial support should come from the Sports Council's bank balance. This was proposed by Tom Miller and seconded by Nick Pinder and agreed by all present. It was also agreed that we should review the need for including an element of funding for the web site costs in our annual submission to the Town Council for our support grant.

**Action. Jim Cornell.**

Cyd Smith thanked Gordon for his good work to date.

### **9. A.O.B.**

**9.1.** Stuart Oliver was thanked for offering to send to the LBO an illustrated report of the pre Committee meeting awards ceremony.

**9.2.** Jim Cornell reminded members that the annual £10.00 affiliation fee was due on 1<sup>st</sup> May.

**9.3.** Host venues for future Committee meetings were agreed as the Canoe Club, the Golf Club, the Rugby Club and the Cricket Club.

**9.4.** The next meeting will be in early March and issues for raising at the 11<sup>th</sup> April meeting with Town and Central Beds will be agreed.

**Action. Jim Cornell.**