

COMBINED COMMUNITY CENTRES COMMITTEE

Met via Zoom on Monday 22nd February 2021 at 2.30pm.

PRESENT:

Councillors: Lyn Bolton, Neil Harris, John Newton-Davies
Public members: Jim Watson & Alex Hickinbotham

OFFICERS:

Martine MacRae, Community Centres Manager

IN ATTENDANCE:

Nita Patel, Imran Mehdi

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

June Reid

ABSENT:

Ian St John

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST :

There were none

478 MARSHALSWICK PLAYGROUP

The Combined Community Centres Committee held an extra-ordinary meeting to discuss the recommencement and realignment of the Marshalswick Playgroup. Nita Patel, the current Manager of the Marshalswick Playgroup introduced Imran Mehdi, owner of the Ashbourne Nursery Group. She put the proposal to the Committee that Mr Mehdi was prepared to take over her License and Business Assets of the Playgroup. This would be subject to change of extending the opening hours from 7.30am to 6.30pm. Mr Mehdi confirmed that he would also be prepared to invest in the outside space and equipment, to improve the whole appearance of the outside are and further protect the children from the view of both of the car parks, by installing a new fence.

Martine MacRae reported that the extension of hours would affect the current users as follows:

Lets Dance Academy on a Monday and Penny Waterman on a Wednesday, would not be able to continue.

Weight Watchers on a Tuesday currently start at 5.30pm, they could change their time to 6.30pm. Both Rainbows on a Thursday and Yoga on a Friday could move their start times by 30 minutes to 6.30pm.

Tai Chi on a Wednesday can be offered a slot at Jersey Farm Centre. Medau Movement, who were in on a Thursday, have already moved to Jersey Farm to accommodate the Playgroup last year.

Extend exercise class that were on a Tuesday, cancelled their class last year.

After discussion it was:

RESOLVED:

To ensure due diligence is followed by the Committee, the meeting and final resolution was postponed. It was agreed to investigate the Ashbourne Nursery Group accounts and current lease arrangements with St Stephens Parish Council and Leavesden Council.

It was agreed to reconvene the meeting on Monday 1st March 2021 to discuss the outcome of the investigations.

COMBINED COMMUNITY CENTRES COMMITTEE

Reconvened via Zoom on Monday 1st March 2021 at 2.30pm.

PRESENT:

Councillors: Lyn Bolton, Neil Harris, John Newton-Davies, June Reid
Public members: Jim Watson & Alex Hickinbotham

OFFICERS:

Martine MacRae, Community Centres Manager

IN ATTENDANCE:

N/A

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Ian St John

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were none.

479 MARSHALSWICK PLAYGROUP

The due diligence documents, having been previously circulated, were discussed and it was:

RESOLVED:

That Ashbourne Nursery Group passes all of the Committee requirements and on this basis, they would be deemed suitable to take over the pre-school and day nursery.

480 MARSHALSWICK PLAYGROUP – ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE REQUIREMENTS – COMMITTEE ROOM

Further discussion ensued regarding use of the Committee Room by Ashbourne nursery. It was:

RESOLVED

To ask if Ashbourne Nursery Group would be able to vacate the Committee Room in the afternoons as and when required for meetings (typically 2/3 times a month).

481 MARSHALSWICK PLAYGROUP – OFSTED REQUIREMENTS

The Ofsted requirements for the Playgroup were discussed and it was:

RESOLVED:

That Cllr Bolton would investigate further and report back to the Committee.

Cllr Bolton also stated that she would be making a report and proposal to the Full Council on Wednesday 10th of March 2021, the text of which she will make available to Committee members as soon as possible. She noted that there was not consensus on the way forward from the Committee and therefore a final decision needed to come from Full Council.

Post Meeting:

Please find attached a detailed report from Cllr Bolton covering the additional requirements above.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Combined Community Centres Committee is to be confirmed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.15pm.

Chair

Date