



## **July Meeting Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019**

### **Present:**

Les Hughes, Glenda Stephens, Barry Norrington, Jenny Hurley, Alec Hurley, John France, Pat Pohl, Cllr Joy Redsell

### **Apologies for absence:**

T Rawson, Cllr A Watkins, Cllr S Liddiard, C Cansdale, P Chesworth

### **Matters arising from previous minutes:**

None

### **Chairman's report:**

We have received the grant for this year and have some people waiting for grants.

### **Secretary's report:**

1. Barry made a 2-minute presentation on behalf of the Sports Council to the recent full Thurrock Council meeting. A full copy of the presentation, which stressed the need for more funding and support for sport, was given to each councillor. Before the report a petition signed by 1548 local people was presented. Hopefully sport will be discussed by councillors at a future meeting.
2. At the Council meeting Olivia Busby was honoured by members. She is a BDFPA powerlifter who is Squat & Bench World Champion 2019, has 2 World records and 3 British records
3. An email has been received from Thurrock Gymnastics Academy. They have been approached by the council about a purpose-built gymnastics facility being built in Thurrock and wondered if this would be likely. There was some discussion around this but it was felt unlikely.

Information about the club was included in the email. *Thurrock Gymnastics Academy teach gymnastics to children from 5 years old to 16 years old and once they have reached the age to leave many of these children become helpers and coaches for the club.*

*We have been teaching gymnastics within Thurrock for nine years and have grown over this time from 42 children and 4 coaches to having over 750 children and 25 coaches and helpers, with roughly 500 children on the waiting list.*

*Many of the coaches we have progressed through the club to give them qualifications and experience which will help them throughout their careers, we also have very highly experienced coaches and a few have taught Olympic gymnasts myself included.*

*We currently run out of two schools The Ormiston Park Academy and The Ockendon Academy.*

*We currently train 12 hours a week and we would like to expand the club so we can offer gymnastics 7 days a week, 12 hours a day this will give us the ability to offer a place to most of our waiting list and offer baby and toddler, pre school, special needs and Adult gymnastic classes.*

*I feel that having a purpose-built facility will not only offer a great place for children of Thurrock to learn gymnastics and similar sports such as Acro gymnastics, trampolining and dance but also to be a hub for families within the local community.*

### **Treasurer's report:**

The grant received is £5387

As at 1<sup>st</sup> July - £5432.37 available.

It was agreed to grant aid:

Khari Riley- La Borde £500 Athletics and Charlotte Waters £150 Essex CCC U13 player

And grant £361.50 to South Essex District Cricket for girls' cricket.

An application was received from Orsett and Thurrock CC but Jenny is going to see if this is still required.

### **Planning:**

None informed

### **AOB**

1. Cllr Redsell informed the meeting that the Sports Strategy should be made public soon.
2. There was a lot of discussion around the costs for sports clubs – managing pitches, pitch cutting, pitch hire etc, paying for council leases, clubhouses etc as well as the affiliation fees, insurances etc.

Thurrock Council Asset Manager is visiting all clubs to look at council premises and revise leases. Some leases are very high and clubs will struggle to pay them.

3. An update was given on the condition of bowls greens at Blackshots, where one green cannot be used this year, and Corringham and Fobbing. The four

clubs at Blackshots are now employing a contractor to maintain their greens rather than the Council.

4. Clubs are advised to look at the Active Essex website for funding opportunities. <https://www.activeessex.org/funding-list/>.  
Also, Persimmon Homes <https://www.persimmonhomes.com/community-champions>
5. The “Women Like Us” Festival was held at the Civic Hall. It was organised by Active Essex who have run these events all over Essex. It was aimed at encouraging inactive women to become active. It was felt that it attracted a number of active women as well as some in need of exercise. Participants could take part in up to 6 activities during the morning – various aerobic exercises in the hall and other indoor rooms, and some like cricket, rugby, Nordic walking on the field. Each participant received a “Women Like Us” T-shirt and goodie bag.
6. It was felt that Thurrock Residents do not always know about events taking part in the borough. Not everyone receives a local paper. We have thriving clubs and world class athletes but we do not champion them enough. We need to promote the good in the borough.

**Meeting closed at 9.04pm. Next meeting October**