

**DIRECT SERVICES BOARD
23 JUNE 1998**

Present: Councillor Sargeant (Chairman), Councillors Barnard,
Bayle, Blatchford, Grayson, Miss Haydon, Mrs Keene and Mrs Pile

Apology for Absence was received from:

Councillor Taylor

123. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 21 January 1998 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

124. Exclusion of Public and Press

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 members of the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of the following items which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information under the following categories of Schedule 12A of that Act:

- (1) Information relating to employees
- (9) Information relating to terms for a contract
- (11) Information relating to labour relations consultations

125. Pay Awards - Confirmation of Action (Item 1)

The Borough Personnel Manager reported on action taken in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, on agreeing a flat rate pay award of 3% for the Leisure and Grounds Maintenance contract staff, from 1 April 1998.

RESOLVED that the action of the Borough Personnel Manager, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice- Chairman, in agreeing to pay awards for the Leisure Contract and Ground Maintenance staff be noted.

126. Progress Report Bracknell Sport and Leisure Centre and Coral Reef (Item 2)

The Board received the General Manager's progress report for the Bracknell Sport and Leisure Centre and Coral Reef. This gave updates on the financial situation, sickness, refurbishment of the changing facilities at Coral Reef, synthetic pitch at Bracknell Sport and Leisure Centre, junior skate-board ramp, the use of Squash Courts, events recently held at the Sports Centre. The Catering Manager also reported on catering activities at the venues.

The replacement of the synthetic pitch had fallen behind schedule, due to the recent bad weather; the work was now due to be completed by the beginning of July 1998.

The junior skateboard ramp at Bracknell Sports and Leisure Centre would be completed in time for the summer holidays.

RESOLVED that the progress report be noted.

127. **Building Works - General Managers Report (Item 3)**

The Board received the General Manager's report for the Building Works Section. The report gave details of performance, staff changes, employee sickness absence levels and transport.

The General Manager reported that the current corner welder, used in the production of UPVC Windows, was four years old and could only weld one joint at a time. This was causing a delay in the manufacturing process, as many windows needed eight or more joints. Accordingly, the Board were recommended to approve expenditure of £12,000 for the purchase of a corner welder to improve the manufacturing process.

RESOLVED that:

- i) the report be noted and
- ii) the purchase of a corner welder at a cost of £12,000 be approved and be funded from the 1997/98 operating surplus.

128. **Progress Report Ground Maintenance DSO (Item 4)**

The Committee received the Ground Maintenance Manager's progress report, detailing performance indicators, an update on the new ride-on cylinder lawnmowers, best value, employee sickness absence levels, staff changes and employee training and development.

It was reported that the ride-on cylinder lawnmowers have performed well in the recent wet weather conditions. The repair costs on the new machines has been low, as there have been only eight punctures in sixteen weeks, due to the new Kevlar Tyres.

RESOLVED that the progress report be noted.

The meeting commenced at 5.30pm and concluded at 5.45pm.

CHAIRMAN