

**LEISURE (PFI) BOARD MEETING held at 9.00 am on 27 FEBRUARY 2001
at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN**

Present: Councillor A R Row – Chairman.
Councillors R A E Clifford and R J Copping.

Officers in attendance: Mrs L Bunting, F Chandley, Ms K Chapman,
J B Dickson and Mrs S McLagan.

PFI 60 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A J Ketteridge, the Chief Executive, the Corporate Director – Planning and the Head of Legal Services.

PFI 61 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Leisure (PFI) Board held on 16 January 2001 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

PFI 62 BUSINESS ARISING

(i) Minute PFI 55 (i) - Planning Application

Regarding this item, the Project Manager reported that the planning applications for the centres at the Helena Romanes School and Stansted Mountfitchet School had been considered by the Development Control Sub-Committee on 26 February 2001. Both applications had been approved subject to conditions as recorded in the Town Planning Register.

(ii) Minute PFI 55 (ii) - PFI Forum

It was decided to postpone the next proposed PFI Forum, which had been scheduled for early May, in order to allow time for the contracts and other issues to be finalised.

PFI 63 UPDATE ON MEETINGS OF SENIOR OFFICER LEISURE BOARD

The Project Manager updated Members on the Senior Officer Leisure Board meeting held on 22 February 2001.

(i) Meeting with Valuation Officer

A meeting had been held with the Valuation Officer regarding the valuation for business rates purposes. An estimate was to be prepared.

(ii) Consultants

A meeting had been held with Roger Whitmore (Director – Mouchel) which had proved very positive. The Project Manager was waiting for confirmation of the issues which had been discussed. Councillor Copping stated that the Council needed reassurance of Mouchel's professionalism and that they should be made aware of their responsibilities if no letter was forthcoming.

(iii) Financial and Contractual Close Media Coverage

A date was still to be arranged and negotiations were continuing with Linteum. It was hoped that they would complete by the middle of June. The Chairman was concerned that there should be no slack in the programme and that proper dates should be set out and adhered to.

(iv) Project Manager's Report

The Project Manager reported on a meeting which had been held with Linteum to discuss operational issues. There had also been a meeting regarding the payment mechanism and the Project Manager had received a guidance booklet on this subject. Linteum's Solicitors were liaising with the Council's Solicitors (Devonshires).

Councillor Copping expressed his concern regarding usage of the new centre at Helena Romanes School. He said that it was not acceptable that, as yet, the Council had not had confirmation on usage and that a signed declaration from the Board of Governors was required urgently. The Project Manager said that if the declaration were not received in the next few days, she would ask the Chief Executive to intervene.

The Chairman said that pressure must be brought to bear on Linteum to produce more programmes.

PFI 64 **UPDATE ON SCHOOL ISSUES**

(i) Helena Romanes School

A letter had been received from Helena Romanes School requesting a further £5,000 for legal fees. The original limit had been £1,000 but this had been increased to £5,000 with the proviso that it would be repaid over the contract period. It was agreed that the School should be given two options – either the Council pay £5,000 towards legal fees which would not be recovered, or the Council pay £10,000 towards legal fees which would then be recouped over the period of the contract. The provision of either option would be dependent on the School confirming their agreement to usage issues and them making a decision regarding the future of the existing Sports Centre.

(ii) Stansted Mountfitchet School

The Project Manager reported that regular monthly meetings were being held and that no issues were outstanding.

PFI 65 **NAMING OF CENTRES**

The issue was raised concerning the naming of the new centres. A discussion followed and it was considered that using town names would be easier.

PFI 66 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Project Manager was to arrange the next meeting of the Board and would inform Members of the date and time in due course.

The meeting ended at 10.15 am.