

**LEISURE (PFI) BOARD held at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD
SAFFRON WALDEN on 24 SEPTEMBER 2003 at 10.00 am**

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

Officers in attendance: D Demery, J B Dickson, Mrs S McLagan and
Mrs L Bunting.

PFI 15 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Sell and the Acting Chief Executive.

PFI 16 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Leisure (PFI) Board, held on 16 July 2003, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

PFI 17 MATTERS ARISING

(i) Minute PFI 13 – Ombudsman Complaint

Councillor Copping referred to this item and the Director of Resources confirmed that this issue would go to the next Resources Committee on 20 November for confirmation. The cost of this work was £6,000 and agreement had been reached with the member of the public concerned.

PFI 18 FINAL REPORT ON BUILDING COMPLETION

The Architect and Property Advisor gave a final report on the completion of building works. Apart from minor teething problems, everything had been completed on time and to budget.

The Chairman said that the project had been a great achievement and that congratulations from the Board should be passed on to everyone for all their hard work.

PFI 19 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

(i) Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre

It was reported that, whilst membership numbers were slow at present, the centre had been well received. The relationship between the school and the centre was good and regular meetings were being held. Leisure Connection still had work to do on marketing but there were no adverse problems.

(ii) Great Dunmow Leisure Centre

The Head of Community and Leisure reported that, in general terms, the centre had been well received. Councillor Copping said that it was a

wonderful facility but he considered that there was a lack of professionalism in front line staff and public perception of the centre had not been good. The Head of Community and Leisure said that a meeting with all parties had been held to discuss the issues which had been raised and Leisure Connection had produced a service improvement strategy. The Head of Community and Leisure described the monitoring procedures that would be carried out by officers.

PFI 20 OFFICIAL OPENING

The Head of Community and Leisure had received confirmation that the Duchess of Gloucester would be attending the official opening of the centres on 30 October 2003. The first ceremony would take place at Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre with the unveiling of a plaque and a similar ceremony would then take place at Great Dunmow Leisure Centre.

Mr Mehta, the benefactor for the Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre, would be unable to attend the opening. He had been invited to attend the centre on another date along with his family and to which the Leisure Board Members would be invited to attend.

PFI 21 PFI PRESENTATION TO MEMBERS

A presentation to Members would take place during November which would provide an objective assessment of the project.

PFI 22 LEISURE BOARD – FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS

A discussion took place on the future of the Leisure (PFI) Board. It was proposed that Scrutiny 1 Committee would take on the responsibility as currently that Committee received information reports on the PFI project. Any future policy decisions could be made by the Community and Leisure Committee. Members therefore considered that the responsibilities of the PFI Board had now been fulfilled and that the Board should now cease to operate

RESOLVED that the Leisure (PFI) Board should cease to function from 31 October 2003.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to the Board for their work over the years.

PFI 23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was decided that, if any major issues arose concerning the project, a meeting would be arranged if necessary.

The meeting ended at 11.25 am.