

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF COLBURN TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 1st NOV 2022 AT 7 PM
IN COLBURN VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT

Mayor Jag Sharma (Chair)
Councillors: **Colburn Town** – Miles Burnham, Angela Dale, Michelle Dunning, Kevin Foster, Rupert Hildyard, Colin Lyne, Colin Mincher & Paul Towers.
Albermarle - Akuila Tutora. **Colburn Moor** – Andrea Crowe
Clerk: Philippa Graves

This was a specific meeting held for public discussion on the **Future of the Colburn Leisure Centre** since the announcement made by the Richmondshire Leisure Trust that they could not keep the building running beyond 30th November due to the unprecedented rise in energy contracts (see minutes of 17th October 2022)

The Village Hall was packed with local residents, group users of the centre and included Andy White and Austin Gordon from RLT. A wide range of questions and suggestions were made by the public and a greater understanding of the ownership structure and history was covered.

Andy White, Chair of the RLT Trustees thanked Austin Gordon, General Manager, and staff at the Centre for all their hard work. The Trustees were a group of volunteer people who ran the Trust as a charity (limited guarantee) which meant it could not run at a loss and they had essential reserves to meet legal requirements ie redundancy etc. He was asked about a free transfer of gym equipment (worth approx. £135,000) to which he agreed to include the field tractor. He confirmed the Trust would work constructively with any group who could offer financial help and £6000 per month was the minimum amount.

A meeting had taken place on Sat 29th October with Users of the Centre to seek their support and measure how much “community buy-in” existed to assist the Town Council in their decision on how to move forward.

3 options had been put forward:

- a) Close the building at a huge cost in boarding up, shutting down utilities etc. Seek tenders for alternative use of building. Final decision on demolition. Loss of a valuable community space.
- b) Pay £6000 per month to RLT until 31st March to cover increased energy cost. Building stays open for community use but no further forward with long term financing.
- c) Take over control on 30th November and form a Community Sports Hub based on the existing group users which would be a like-minded organisation. Representatives from all groups and the Town Council to form a Committee to run the governance. Lease would require transferring, heating system needs replacing, grants applying for etc.

A motion was proposed by Cllr Dale, amended by Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Mincher and put to a recorded vote which was unanimous.

It was **RESOLVED** to support the Richmondshire Leisure Trust at a cost of £7,000 per month to cover the months of October, November and December totalling £21,000 and work together to form a Community Group consisting of Town councillors and representatives of the Group users to take the Centre forward to 1st January 2023. The Community Group to give a monthly report to the Town Council on their progress and the current financial position, meetings 21st November and 19th December.

Andy White would put the resolution to the RLT Board Meeting on Monday 4th November and report back to the Town Council on Tuesday 5th November.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm