



WHSPAA Emergency General Meeting

6:00 to 7:00pm, Tuesday 26th March

Birchwood Leisure Centre,
Sportsman Room, Longmead Road, Hatfield, AL10 0AN

Minutes

Present:

Sarah Scotland	WHSPAA (Chair)
Dave Bartlett	WHSPAA (Vice President)
Richard Hill	Activate
Councillor Terry Mitchinson	Cabinet Member for Sport (WHBC)
Kumiko Yokouchi	Project and Events Officer (WHSPAA)
Matt Rayner	Community Partnerships (WHBC)
Milan Johnston (minutes)	Sports Partnerships Officer (WHBC)
Mike Scandrett	de Havilland Bowls Club
Gill Bartlett	Comets JBC
Richard Bloom	Herts Phoenix
John Brown	Welwyn & District Bowls Club
Jim McKeown	Welwyn & District Bowls Club
Stewart Parkhouse	Welwyn Garden City Bowls Club
Stuart Johnson	Hatfield Hyde CC
Val Hamby	Line Dancing Campus West
Alan Sparshott	Bushin MMA

Apologies:

Lorraine Ellis, Ros Cramp, Fiona Deans

1. Welcome

Introductions were made around the table and Matt thanked all members in attendance for their time this evening.

2. Overview on WHSPAA

Matt briefly gave an overview about WHSPAA which was formed in 2002 when Community Sport Networks (CSNS) were a key arm in the Sport England delivery model.

Sport England contributed a set up cost of £20-25k for kit, equipment and for WHSPAA to deliver programmes across the borough which they have done so successfully over many years.

Welwyn Hatfield are now one of the last few borough's within Hertfordshire who still have a constituted CSN as other boroughs and districts have changed the setup of their CSN. Those CSN's continue to support clubs and organisations as well as deliver Club forums where they share information around funding, volunteering and club tools.

3. WHSPAA Future Direction

Matt explained to members that a proposal was made to the WHSPAA management committee which was to formally disband WHSPAA as a constituted Community Sports Network and set up a formal group with a Terms of Reference which would come under the brand WelHat Sports. This was unanimously agreed by all members of the WHSPAA management committee who were all present at that meeting.

WelHat Sports would be a central hub where clubs and organisations can access information, resources and advice which will assist with increasing Sport and Physical Activity opportunities and maximise participation within Welwyn Hatfield.

The Terms of reference were circulated prior to the meeting to members by email and Matt delivered a presentation to members on the proposal of WelHat Sports which included the priorities, objectives, meetings, finance and also discussed some of the potential steering group leads that could form.

Matt highlighted some of the advantages of moving away from the current model but did point out that it was not without its risks. The new organisation would still rely on volunteers coming forward to assist in the development and delivery of the new model. Matt also highlighted that moving away from being a constituted body would mean that some funding/grant pots that are currently available to WHSPAA would not longer to available.

It was also noted that both Herts Sports Partnership and Welwyn Hatfield Council have agreed to host the funds that would be transferred from WHSPAA once the organisation closes its accounts.

Questions

1. *If WelHat Sports is not constituted as it is now through WHSPAA how will the organisation be able to apply for grant?* It was explained that WelHat Sports will be able to apply for funding through WHBC (as the lead organisation) accessing different pots, however it was accepted that these would be different pots to the ones WHSPAA can access and ultimately WHBC would get the final say on whether or not applying for that funding was realistic as WHBC would be legally responsible for the delivery of that project.
2. *How will clubs engage with the steering group leads?* There will be a new website which will be the responsibility of the Sports Partnership Officer (WHBC) to keep up to date with all information (within reason). Clubs will be encouraged to liaise with the Sports Partnership Officer directly who will use the experience and expertise of those on the steering group to help that club or organisation with their specific question or query.
3. *Who are the steering group leads and how do you become one?* The leads are not set, however it is proposed that there would be a minimum of 6 people (no maximum) on the steering group. Lead officers would represent an area of work (accessibility, safeguarding, marketing, older people or women & girls) rather than a sport. This means interested parties could come forward with their expertise rather than their sport. The steering group would meet to vote in a chair who would only be able to stand for a maximum of 2 years in order to enable the steering group to be fluid.
4. *Where is the administration for WelHat Sports coming from?* All of the meetings (club forums and steering group meetings) will be administered through WHBC as

well as the WelHat Sports website. In terms of additional events and projects, WHBC will support where it can but will not be able to provide an unlimited amount of support.

5. *How will WelHat Sports members see finances?* Should the finances be transferred to WHBC, officers from the Council will be able to provide an account summary at all steering group meetings and will also update all members of WelHat Sports at the annual Clubs Forum event each year on the current funding situation. Expenditure will only be able to be undertaken should there be agreement from the steering group. The funding will be held by WHBC or HSP in a secured ring fence pot and will not be placed into either organisations general funds. In terms of HSP receiving the funding as they are part of the wider University of Hertfordshire financial system there will be a slightly different process which might be a little harder to navigate but the result would be the same.
6. *What are the next steps if we vote for this?* There will be another meeting at the end of April where we will formally launch the new organisation, and at that launch we will be asking for steering group representation. In terms of financial money that is within WHSPAA, once members agree to disband WHSPAA they will need to agree where the WHSPAA funds are to be transferred to. That transfer of funds will take place as soon as possible to the agreed organisation (WHBC or HSP) and the WHSPAA account will be closed.

4. Dissolution vote by members

Members of the meeting were asked whether they wanted to disband WHSPAA and set up WelHat Sports.

All voting members voted, all but one member (who voted against) were in favour of the proposal to disband WHSPAA in favour of the creation of WelHat Sports

Members were then asked to vote on whether WHSPAA current finances should be transferred to Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council or to Herts Sports Partnership.

All voting members voted, 1 member abstained and all other members voted in favour of transferring the funds to the Council as soon as possible.

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council reassured members that the funds will be ring-fenced and there will be a process in place for WelHat Sports to access these funds, it was highlighted that the Council will not have any access to these funds.

5. Upcoming events and dates

The launch of WelHat Sports will take place at the Club Forum on Tuesday 30th April 18:30pm at the University of Hertfordshire, agenda to follow.

Meeting closed at 6.50pm