



ALTON & DISTRICT SPORTS COUNCIL

CHAIR	VICE-CHAIR	TREASURER	SECRETARY
The Chairman Walters	Brian Scowcroft	Sylvia Comber	Position vacant
chair@altondsc.org	vicechair@altondsc.org	treasurer@altondsc.org	

Minutes for Extraordinary Meeting (members and invited guests only)

7:00pm Thursday 29th June 2017
at Alton Town Assembly Rooms

Present (see attached list)

1. Welcome and thanks: The Chairman welcomed members of the A&DSC to the meeting.
2. Apologies: Joanne Foley, Philip Scrase, Paul Adams, Sylvia Comber, Alton Taekwondo Club
3. Approval of minutes: proposed Derek Peiers, seconded Laurie Cuffley, all agreed
4. Banking and finance update: a. Electronic banking now sorted – thanks to Sylvia. Report to follow
5. Grant Applications: a. Alton Squash Academy applied for a grant of £80 to register 2 coaches for their community coaching with Squash England and to pay their insurance b. Alton Trampoline Club applied for £100 towards the purchase of a double mini trampoline for the club c. Members of Alton & Four Marks Archers applied for 2 grants of £100 each towards the purchase of sights for bows. All grants agreed
6. Chairman's update on the New Sports Centre: Phase 1 of the local campaign is now coming to an end. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• People of Alton and surrounding villages are now aware of the lack of consultation by EHDC for the sports centre and the secrecy surrounding the contract signed between EHDC and Sport and Leisure Management <i>(Sports and Leisure Management Limited, formed in 1987 is a leisure management company based in the UK. Everyone Active is their consumer brand and the trading name. They operate nearly 150 managed sites across England).</i>• Alton Town Council agreed to defer endorsing the EHDC proposal at their recent meeting and commissioned a survey which has been completed by approximately 2500 people/and clubs. Early indications show that the people want a sports centre not a leisure centre as agreed in the contract.• The Chairman gave thanks to all who have supported the campaign including members of A&DSC, Town Hall staff, SOS facebook page, A&DSC website, Alton Herald and supporting Town Councillors.

- The Chairman expressed his disappointment at the lack of response from some villages and that only 2 members of A&DSC had attended the road shows. Generally at the road shows there was a lot of discontent with EHDC's treatment of Alton.

Phase 2: will be to take the campaign nationally involving the following actions by:

- **All Individual sports:** contacting their National Sporting Bodies for their support by lobbying Sport England,
- **All Individual sports:** continuing to lobby/to inform all forms of the media (including individual sport's websites and other media outlets) at the highest levels possible.
- **All Individual sports:** lobbying county councillors to speak up on our behalf,
- **Committee:** possibly engaging with sporting interests in Petersfield and Whitehill Bordon.
- **As many as possible:** attend the Full Town Council Meeting at the Town Hall on 13th July at 7pm. Speakers are advised to be precise, not go over old ground, and insist that ATC and EHDC, regardless of political party, support the public will.
- **All Individual sports:** registering with EHDC for notifications of any changes to the planning application approved in 2015 (Reserved Matters Planning Application number 21068\040),
- **Gwen** challenging whether the decision taken by EHDC was legitimate,
- **Chairman:** finding out who is the elected point of focus within EHDC to whom all queries/questions can be targeted. (Currently, most enquires are being redirected around the civil service network and not to the councillors who represent and are accountable to us).
- **Chairman via ATC:** making sure that the decision about Alton Sports Centre should be taken at an open meeting not in cabinet which would be closed to public and consists of just 4 councillors
- **All Individual sports:** Do not accept shoddy service from EHDC. If you don't complain there will be no record and they may continue to ignore you. By using this email address: <http://www.easthants.gov.uk/complaints>) you can't be ignored and there is a record of your complaint.

7 Reports and Updates from Individual Sports Clubs

Alton Runners; don't use the sports centre for their club but use it for members to train for fitness in general. It was recommended that they contact English Athletics Association to ensure that the new sports centre is fit for purpose for 21st century.

Guiding and Scouting: have been active with publicity (song and noticeboard) have had a response from EHDC saying that they have listened to them, but no change has been made.

Alton Squash Academy: met with Sean Herdman Grant to clarify that the squash courts are a community resource so will the other users be accommodated elsewhere in the new sports centre? All courts are well used for squash during the peak period, Monday to Thursday. The current usage, if applied to two courts, would displace a large number of the public. If the ASA continues to field 4 county teams it would mean that there would be no court availability for the public during peak times. In the 3 towns area of the current signed contract there were 12 public courts. 2 have been demolished, 4 are awaiting demolition, leaving only 4 public courts between 3 towns.

Alton & District Swimming Club: chair unable to attend – will be in touch with information about what they have done as a club and the response they got.

Alton Trampoline Club: have been reassured (in writing?) that the ceiling height will be sufficient for the sport

but have not heard about storage

Manor Colts Football Club: very concerned about the astro turf bookings only being taken up until Christmas but that's it, where do they go after that? Would like to know what is happening as they need the pitches for winter training and it seems that there are none in Alton or nearby towns. This clearly goes against EHDC's stated aim of continuity between the opening of the new, and the demolition of the old centre.

Judo; pulled out of the sports centre last year due to damage to their mats and no suitable storage. Concerned that there is no provision at all for Martial arts in the new centre.

Netball: have no provision – have been told that they will have access to the outside space. Netball cannot be played on astro turf so this multi-purpose space is not suitable because it is not appropriate or safe.

Archery: have not had a space at the sports centre since the projectile room was requisitioned initially for the gym and subsequently a dance studio.

Alton & Four Marks Archers: currently have no provision but did previously. It was suggested that they get in touch with their national body for support.

8 General Discussion; preparation for the ATC's meeting and the result of the survey

It was agreed that we need as many members as possible to attend. The Chairman will get his name on the list to speak early on and state our concerns. He urged every club to be well prepared and if speaking to make sure they have statistics to support their case.

Facts and figures backed up by information from their national sporting bodies will be essential.

Please keep The Chairman informed of any progress/communications with EHDC/ATC/National Sporting bodies so he is as prepared as he can be to fight our corner.

9 Possible future actions to ensure the town has the best possible sporting facilities

It was agreed that A&DSC should be considered the so called "nuclear option" – (EHDC threatening to not provide a new centre and demolishing the old one if EHDC's current plans are not accepted). There was a general consensus that the town would be better off not having a centre at all rather than having public money spent on a new one with a life expectancy of 60 years and is already inadequate to meet current needs and no provision to cater for an expanding population. If the nuclear option is used, the Alton like other towns, would have to look to fulfil its sporting requirements independently.

We must aim to get EHDC via ATC to communicate/start talking about all matters concerning the Sports Centre.

It was agreed that Petersfield Squash Club will be welcomed to our meetings and they were thanked for their contribution tonight. (ASA and PSC will liaise over their actions)

10. AOB: Lions have funds to support Youth Tournaments and funding for junior teams. Contact them directly via the link <mailto:sarod9@msn.com>

11 Meeting closed 9:10pm

Original Signed
JH Walters
Chair

Attendance List Extraordinary Meeting 29 July 2017

Joe	Walters	Alton Squash Academy	joejenwa@yahoo.co.uk
Sheila	Crow	Alton Bowling Club	No change
Margaret	Tesolin	Alton Runners	tesolinbottega@yahoo.co.uk
Laurie	Cufley	Alton Squash Academy	lauriecufley@gmail.com
Derek	Piears	Alton Judo Club	
John	Jones	Alton Ramblers	
Phil	Howard-Jones	SOS	Phil.hj@btinternet.com
John	Priddle	Manor Colts Youth Football Club	priddle_uk@yahoo.co.uk
Andrew	George	Alton Trampoline Club	???? george@btinternet.com
Eric	Adler		
John	Bennington	Petersfield	John.bennington@
Louise	Fletcher	Alton & District Swimming Club	Louise.fletcher@kene.co.uk
Judith	Talbot	ANTS Netball	antsnetball@gmail.com
Gwen	Clifford	Guiding & Scouting	Gwenclifford@btinternet.com