

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK PANEL held on 27 May 2002 in the parish Room, Fiddlers Lane, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor B Kerr (in the Chair)
Councillor JA Marsden
Councillor C Moss
Councillor RA Storrar
Councillor Mrs D Whitton

Invited Guests: Mrs L Andrews representing Saughall Uniform Groups and the
Saughall Cricket Club
Mr K Evans representing Saughall Colts

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were receive from Councillor A Bailey.

2 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No Declarations of Interests were received.

3 PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE

RECOMMENDED:

That the following Terms of Reference be adopted in respect of the Golden Jubilee Park Panel:

- (a) To make recommendations to Council on initiatives that can be taken and schemes that can be put in place on the land it owns on Fiddlers Lane to achieve a park for community use;
- (b) To co-opt as appropriate and draw in expertise to achieve its aims;
- (c) To obtain professional advice and quotations as required; and
- (d) To proactively pursue and consider grant aid opportunities.

4 REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

In order to bring the Panel up to date with recent events the Chairman provided it with a brief account of the proceedings of and decisions reached at the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 23 May 2002, when issues relating to the Golden Jubilee Park had been discussed.

Members noted that:

?? The quotation received from Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council would be used to pursue grant aid in respect of the following from Chester City Council:

- (a) apply herbicide, cut down, cultivate, grade, harrow, apply seed and roll; and

(b) grub out boundary hedge, provide pipe drain and access.

?? The request for additional car parking provision in the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field made by the Uniform Groups had been approved on the basis that agreement did not mean secure tenure and that the land would be reinstated to its present standard at a future date, at no cost to the Council if that was its wish.

?? The offer to purchase 1.2 acres of adjacent land, currently in the ownership of Mrs J Johnson of Oak Tree Nursery, had been declined at the present time.

?? The funding available to the Council for the Golden Jubilee Park/Fiddlers Lane Playing Field set out in the budget (sub-headings) under the Environment Matters budget head had been noted.

5 VILLAGE COMMUNITY SAFETY AID

The Panel considered the details of the Cheshire Constabulary Village Community Safety Award which now formed one part of the Best Kept Village Competition. The possibility of obtaining grant encouraged communities to focus on community safety issues, to identify concerns and generate initiatives to provide solutions.

When a detailed proposal had been formulated in respect of the Golden Jubilee Park land this award scheme might prove an important mechanism to obtain grant aid, possibly to make appropriate provision for the youth of the village.

RESOLVED:

That the detail of the grant scheme be noted at the present time and revisited when a detailed proposal had been worked up.

6 SITE VISIT

To assist the debate in respect of short and long term measures the Panel undertook a site visit and considered the potential for all of the land in its ownership on Fiddlers Lane.

7 SHORT TERM MEASURES

Members considered the newly acquired land on Fiddlers Lane as it was at present. It had previously been cropped with daffodils and had now become a meadow. Drainage was poor, the land was separated from the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field by a hedge which would need to be removed to maximise the land's potential. There were currently overhead cables stretching across the land which would require re-routing.

In the short term the following ACTIONS were agreed:

(a) any drainage work needed would have to be identified and carried out;

(b) the Clerk would arrange for the Chairman of the Cheshire Playing Fields Association, Mr Charles Cox, to undertake a site visit with representative Members in order to assist (a) above;

- (c) no action would be taken on weed control until any drainage work had been carried out;
- (d) once the drainage was at an acceptable standard the land would be seeded (August/September 2002);
- (e) the Clerk would ascertain from Chester City Council whether planning permission was required to grub out the hedge;
- (f) the Clerk would also make initial enquiries to start the process with planning officers to get the Golden Jubilee Park land re-designated from land for agricultural use to land for recreational purposes;
- (g) the Clerk would write to MANWEB to ask that it makes arrangements to re-route its tract of overhead cables;
- (h) the Clerk would write to Mr David Bell to ask if he would be prepared to attend meetings of this Panel in order to represent the Saughall Youth Club; and
- (i) the Uniform Groups be requested to consider applying to Chester City Council, the Planning Authority, to have the condition in the planning consent regarding the usage of their headquarters changed so that other organisations are able to use it.

8 LONGER TERM MEASURES

Members agreed that a target completion date of Summer 2004 should be put on football provision.

The following ACTIONS were agreed to assist the longer term use of the land:

- (a) the Saughall Colts would let the Council have specifications in respect of the ground area required for football pitches and changing rooms;
- (b) the Saughall Colts would explore options for funding open to them;
- (c) the Saughall Cricket Club would also let the Council have specifications in respect of ground area for its requirements; and
- (d) the Saughall Cricket Club would also explore options for funding open to it.

9 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the next meeting of the Golden Jubilee Park Panel be held at 7:30pm on 27 June 2002 in the Parish Room, Fiddlers Lane, Saughall.