

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

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

Invited Guests: Mr D Bell representing Saughall Youth Club
Mr B Huxley representing Saughall Cricket Club
Mrs J Young representing Saughall Uniform Groups

10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Moss, Mrs L Andrews and Mr K Evans.

11 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were received.

12 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Golden Jubilee Park Panel held on 27 May 2002 be confirmed as a correct record.

13 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

14 GRANT APPLICATIONS

It was noted that the following bids had been made to Chester City Council for grant aid:

(a) Rural Children's Playgrounds and Recreation Areas

To supply and fix stock (post and rail) fence and 10ft gate c/w oak posts.

Grants were assessed up to 50% of the total cost of the project, with the maximum grant available being £1,000. The estimated cost of the work required was £1,650.

If the bid was successful payment of the grant would be dependant on the work being carried out in the current financial year.

(b) Community Facilities Grant

To grub out the boundary hedge, provide pipe drains and access.

Grants were assessed up to 50% of the total cost of the project, with the maximum grant available being £400. The estimated cost of the work required was £1,020.

If the bid was successful payment of the grant would be dependant on the work being carried out in the current financial year.

(c) Other Funding Opportunities

Councillor RA Storrar reported that he had made a presentation at the last meeting of Chester City Council's Local Panel North held on 22 June 2002 in a bid to obtain the £3,500 currently in its general fund to assist the Golden Jubilee Park Project. He had had a very favourable response and a decision on the allocation of the funding would be made at the next meeting of the Panel in July 2002.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write to Mr Clive Roberts of Chester City Council, the Local Panel's Lead Officer, to formally request Panel funding to grant aid the Golden Jubilee Park project.

15 CHESHIRE PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION

Councillor Kerr had met with Mr Chris Cox, the Chairman of the Cheshire Playing Fields Association, and with Mr Ray Easby, a Technical Adviser, that afternoon. The background of the project had been explained and it had been agreed that it was an excellent field for recreational use and was suitable for development. They roughly estimated that a budget of £100,000+ would be needed to bring the field up to and appropriate standard and to seed.

It has been noted that the field contained heavy clay and therefore drainage would be critical and very expensive.

The Cheshire Playing Fields Association recommended a "design and build/state of preparedness" contract using local recommended contractors. It was noted that three quotations would be required for grant applications.

There were various opportunities to access grant aid for the work required by the partners involved with the project. Examples were as follows:

Saughall Colts Football Club	Football Foundation accessed via Cheshire Football Association (Club must be affiliated)
Saughall Cricket Club	English Cricket Association Lords Taverners
General	WREN (Landfill Tax) Lottery (unlikely as Cheshire is not considered a priority area)

Councillor Kerr had opened discussions previously with WREN and they would commence again to move the project along.

Expertise could be drawn from the Cheshire Playing Fields Association who had been involved in many similar schemes in the past. Mr Easby agreed to provide technical advice.

The Council was advised to contract all of the work required to one contractor and to let the land lie fallow for the time being, although it was agreed that the vegetation would be cut back. It was suggested that realistic target dates were next year for football and the year after for cricket.

Mr Cox agreed to contact contractors Michael Corns of Farndon to arrange a visit with a view to obtaining a quote for the full scheme. Mr Easby agreed to contact Nick Brierley of Land Form – Wilmslow to the same end. A third contractor would also be identified and approached. Once the three quotations had been received, Mr Easby would meet with the Panel.

Councillor RA Storrar reported that he had spoken to Chester City Council's External Funding Officer, Ms Sandra Morrison, who had informed that the process of applying for funding by making bids etc. was not as arduous as it had once been. She had agreed to attend a future Panel meeting with a colleague to share her knowledge and experience in attracting grant aid and exploiting opportunities that were presented.

Mr Huxley informed the meeting that he would contact the Sports Development Officer at the English Cricket Board to find out from scratch how to set up a cricket square and what funding opportunities there were around to assist the process.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the reports and progress made to date be noted; and
- (2) Councillor Marsden be requested to cut the vegetation on the field back as an interim measure and to keep the land tidy.

16 RE-DESIGNATION OF LAND FOR RECREATIONAL USE HEDGEROW – PLANNING PERMISSION

The Clerk had written to Mr Charles Seward, Forward Planning Manager at Chester City Council on 28 May 2002, regarding the re-designation of the land on Fiddlers Lane from agricultural use to recreational use. She had also enquired whether planning permission was necessary before the hedge which divided the land on Fiddlers Lane from that laid out as a swing park/playing field was removed.

Mr Seward had responded on 25 June 2002 informing that Chester City Council would be considering a number of modifications to the Chester District Local Plan over the next few months. As part of that process he would ensure that the recreational designations in the village were assessed in the light of the recent changes in the Parish Council's approach. There were various statutory procedures which dictated the nature and scope of any further changes at this stage and he would need to consider carefully whether the re-designation of the site would be likely to raise any difficulties, given that it effectively raised new issues which had not been previously addressed and debated through the Local Plan process.

However, Mr Seward did not believe that the specification of the site within the Local Plan was necessary to enable the Parish Council to proceed with the proposal. The use of land for recreational purposes was a matter which could be determined on its merits, even in the absence of such a designation.

Mr Seward also informed that any proposal for the change of use of agricultural land to another purpose (including recreation) would require planning permission. It was therefore necessary for the Parish Council to submit a planning application once the basis of a scheme had been drawn up. As part of the process of determining the application the City Council would consider a range of issues including the impact upon hedges. It would only be necessary to submit a separate notification for removal of the hedge if this work was carried out in isolation from the rest of the scheme.

Mr Seward advised that other issues which should be borne in mind when drawing up proposals included: impacts on neighbouring properties; access/parking arrangements; traffic generation; the scale layout and design of any associated built facilities etc. Mr Seward or his colleagues would be happy to meet with the Parish Council's representatives/agents to assist in developing the details when appropriate. It was considered that such a meeting should take place before the project's design was progressed too far and certainly in advance of submitting a formal application.

Members agreed that they would need to have an idea of what was to be included in the layout of the Park and then develop it further with advice from the City Council's Planning Officers. However, it was accepted that there was no point in delaying the application for change of use and advice was needed on this issue.

RESOLVED:

That Mr Seward, Chester City Council's Forward Planning Manager or his colleagues, be invited to the next meeting of the Panel.

17 OVERHEAD ELECTRICITY CABLES

The Clerk had written to MANWEB asking it to make arrangements to redirect its cables as the Council intended that the land they crossed would be used for ball games.

The Clerk had been informed by telephone that the removal of the cables should not be a problem so long as the Council was prepared to give its consent to cables being buried on its land. A site visit would be undertaken by MANWEB and then a formal response would be dispatched.

The Panel noted that the burial of the cables would need to be discussed with the three contractors who would be asked to submit quotes for the work required to create the Golden Jubilee Park.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and a formal response from MANWEB be awaited.

18 UNIFORM GROUP HEADQUARTERS

The Uniform Group had discussed the principle of changing the usage of its Headquarters which was currently a condition of the planning permission. Mrs Young informed that Chester City Council's Planning Officers were not happy with the proposal.

The usage of the Group's Headquarters was being considered specifically in relation to sporting activities. It was hoped that the planning conditions could be relaxed so the Group could have the freedom under the Headquarters planning consent to decide who could use it.

RESOLVED:

That the possibility of relaxing the planning conditions on the current planning permission on the Uniform Group's Headquarters be explored with Mr Seward at the next meeting of the Panel.

19 LAYOUT OF THE GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Mr Bell be requested to obtain appropriate sized scale drawings of the land on Fiddlers Lane; and
- (2) Mr Huxley and Mr Evans be requested to liaise with experts from the Cheshire Playing Fields Association in order to set out the football and cricket pitches on the plan.

20 YOUTH PROVISION

The Panel considered what could be provided in the Golden Jubilee Park specifically for the youth of the village. The possibilities of including a youth shelter, BMX track, basket ball, skateboard and roller blade provision were all discussed.

Councillor RA Storrar reported that Mr Clive Roberts of Chester City Council, was trying to obtain a set of mini goal posts for the Council, free of charge.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) agreement in principle be given to the provision of appropriate facilities for the young people of the village;
- (2) Mr Bell be requested to liaise with members of the Saughall Youth Club and report their ideas on what can be provided in the Park back to the Panel;
- (3) representative young people of the village be invited to a future meeting of the Panel to set out their ideas on facilities that could be provided on the Park; and
- (4) the siting of facilities for skateboarding and cycling on the Park be discussed with the three contractors asked to quote for all of the work involved in the project.

21 IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS

(a) Public Meeting

Members considered whether there was a need for a public meeting to inform local people of the plans being made for the land on Fiddlers Lane.

RESOLVED:

That once the contractors quotations were received an item be included in the Parish newsletter on the proposals for the land and an open invitation be extended to all interested parties to attend Council meetings where the Golden Jubilee Park will be a standing item on the agenda.

(b) Environmental Area

It was noted that the area around the pond, at the top of the field, provided an opportunity to develop an environmental area/picnic area and it was suggested that an environmental study could be carried out.

RESOLVED:

That the idea to create an environmental area around the pond in the Golden Jubilee Park be discussed with the three contractors who would quote for the work required to create the Park in its entirety.

22 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

That subject to Mr Charles Seward's availability the next meeting of the Panel be held at 7:30pm on either Tuesday, 23 or Wednesday, 24 July 2002 in the Parish Room, Fiddlers Lane, Saughall.