

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK PANEL held on 13 February 2003 in the Parish Room, Fiddlers Lane, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor A Bailey (in the Chair)
Councillor B Kerr
Councillor A Marsden
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar
Councillor Mr RA Storrar
Councillor Mrs J Young

Co-opted Members: Mr B Huxley representing Saughall Cricket Club
Mr M Huxley representing Saughall Cricket Club
Mr D Bird
Mr R Curry

Invited Guest: Mr R Easby, Technical Advisor, Cheshire County Playing Fields Association

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Councillor C Moss
Councillor Mrs D Whitton
Mr K Evans
Mr M Bell
Mr D Bell

2 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were received.

3 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That subject to the inclusion of Councillor RA Storrar's name in the list of attendees, the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 3 October 2002 be agreed as a correct record.

4 EXISTING GRANT APPLICATIONS

(a) Rural Children's Playgrounds and Recreation Areas

The Clerk reported that Mr Clive Roberts of Chester City Council had informed that a grant of up to £400 (match funded) would be made available towards the cost of piping the ditch and removing the hedge between the two parcels of land in the Council's ownership.

Concerns were raised over the length of time it had taken to process the Clerk's bid for funding made in May 2002. It was expected that the work had to be

completed and the invoice paid before the funding could be claimed and that the cut off date for this was 31 March 2003.

Given that the planning application for change of use and the removal of the hedgerow had been delayed by Chester City Council's Planning Department, it would not be possible for the work to go ahead in the current financial year and this may mean that the grant will be lost.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to ask for an extension to the period of time in which the claim for funding has to be made and accept the conditions for payment as laid down in the letter from Mrs A Wareing.

(b) Community Facilities Grant

The Clerk reported that Mr Clive Roberts of Chester City Council had informed that a grant of up to £825 (match funded) would be made available towards the cost of supplying and erecting the perimeter fencing and field gate.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to confirm that the Council accepts the conditions for payment as laid down in the letter from Mrs A Wareing.

(c) Local Panel North

The Council had already been informed that it had been successful in attracting grant aid of £3,200 towards the development of the Golden Jubilee Park.

In the light of other successful grant applications the meeting considered how the Council could allocate the funding available.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) part of the Local Panel North grant be used to match fund the Community Facilities grant;
- (2) the Local Panel North grant also be used to pay for soil sampling as appropriate; and
- (3) the remaining funds available from the Local Panel North grant be used to purchase seats which will be stored until the appropriate time when they will be sited in the Golden Jubilee Park.

5 DEVELOPING THE GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK
- PROGRESS MADE TO DATE

(a) Contractors and Quotations

Four quotations had been received on a “design and build” basis. The Council had considered each quote in detail and preferred two of the contractors over the other two.

The meeting concentrated on the short list. One contractor was a specialist whilst the other specialised in drainage and if successful would contract out the specialist work. Mr Easby informed that in his opinion both were technically competent.

One contractor had not quoted for sand slitting and because it was considered essential, particularly on land to be used for football, had been requested to do so. However, this specific quotation had not yet been received.

Members also noted that there would be an increase in the cost of stone from 1 April 2003 and consequently, contractors would wish to resubmit quotations to take account of the price rise.

(b) Soil Sampling

Mr Easby had advised that soil testing was necessary and so the Council had commissioned STRI Ltd to undertake the work required.

Initial testing had been carried out and an advisory report on the proposed cricket table produced. Members received a copy of the report for information. As part of the land had been used as a market garden in the past, there was a lot of humas in the soil and so STRI had recommended a “motty test” be undertaken. The Clerk had put arrangements in hand for it to be done.

(c) Saughall Cricket Club Perspective

Mr B Huxley reported that the Cricket Club had been accepted to play at a higher level because the new cricket ground was coming on stream. The Club’s current facilities on Sea Hill Road would not have allowed it to play at this level. He confirmed that the pitch must have adequate drainage and he had a preference for option 1 recommended by STRI . It was of the highest standard.

It was essential that provision was made for a properly constructed cricket square and that there was also an artificial strip available.

(d) Additional Quotations Required

It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would ask three of the original contractors to supply two additional quotations. One quotation for a grass cricket square to the specifications set out in option 1 detailed in the STRI report and to include an artificial strip, and the other quotation to encompass the rest of the work required. Mr Easby would draw up the specifications and site plan to assist the contractors.

(e) Site Layout

Councillor Kerr reported that Councillor Moss had met with Messrs K Evans and B Huxley and together they had pegged out the sports pitches. Councillor Moss had also supplied a layout of the site and the meeting considered alternatives.

It was **AGREED** that Mr D Bell would be requested to supply a plan and on it would be plotted three sports pitches (the smallest full size pitch allowed and 2 junior pitches).

Following appropriate consultation with the neighbours, protective netting would be put in place to stop balls going onto private property.

(f) The Pond

It was also **AGREED** that the pond would be dredged and then fenced to an agreed specification with a large enough gate being erected to ensure easy access for plant and equipment etc. when the Council deemed it appropriate.

(g) Appointment of a Project Officer

Currently, Mr Easby was providing advice to one of the Cheshire County Playing Fields Association's member Councils. However, when work commenced a Project Officer's services would be required. Mr Easby confirmed his interest in this position and provided details of his previous employment and career background which equipped him to take on this responsibility.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Council appoint Mr Easby as the Project Officer for the Golden Jubilee Park, subject to the agreement and acceptance of an appropriate financial package.

6 EXTERNAL FUNDING

(a) Cricket

Mr B Huxley reported that he had been in discussion with the Headteacher at the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School, Mr Philip Choi. Mr Choi had shown an interest in the school being able to use the new village facilities.

It was noted that the proposed use by the school was an important criteria that would assist in attracting grant aid.

The Cricket Club were considering a whole raft of funding options. It intended to take advantage of the Cricket Foundation National Grant Draw and hoped to make approximately £1,000 from it.

Mr Huxley went on to inform of the various bodies and organisations he intended to approach to acquire financial assistance, including Sports Match who would match £ for £ and Sport England.

It was reported that Councillor C Moss had been in touch with Sport England who had indicated that all of its funding had already been allocated.

(b) Football

It was noted that to attract funding from the Football Foundation a club had to show that it had security of tenure for 25 years. The Parish Council could be a partner in any bid for funding but primarily the Colts should make the application for grant aid.

(c) Parish Council

It was **AGREED** that the Council should consider submitting a bid for funding to WREN. It was known that from 1 April 2003 the Government was reducing the funding available to WREN for dispersal.

Councillor Kerr **AGREED** to take this matter forward.

7 DRAINAGE

Councillor Kerr reported that he had met with the District Engineer, Mr Graham Anderton, and discussed flooding problems on Fiddlers Lane. The District Engineer did not think that the telegraph pole was a problem and had confirmed that the road drain was adequate to cope with the water that came off the land.

8 MOLES

The Chairman reported that because of the increase in mole activity, Councillor C Eyton had arranged for traps to be buried underground to catch the moles. This operation was in progress and would cost the Council £70.

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

A meeting had been arranged with Chester City Council's Planning Officers and other interested parties to talk over problems and to find a way forward. In an attempt to make progress the detailed site layout would be made available prior to the meeting by Mr Easby.

10 ELECTRICITY CABLES

No progress had been made in respect of the overhead electricity cables although Power Systems Ltd had agreed to bury them underground. The cables could not be buried under the cricket square. The work required needed to be done before the contractors went on site.

It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would contact Mr E Davies of Power Systems Ltd and ask for a firm commitment, a date for the work to be completed and details of the route the cables would take across the field.

11 UNIFORM GROUP HEADQUARTERS

It was reported that Chester City Council, the Planning Authority, was consulting with Cheshire County Council, the Strategic Planning Authority, on the variation of conditions 2 and 4 on planning reference 97/234/FUL to allow permanent permission for the scout hut at land adjacent to the playing field.

12 SUMMER 2003 – USAGE

Members considered the possibility of the new land being available for youngsters to play on during the Summer holidays. It was hoped that some provision could be made for older children this year.

It was **AGREED** to keep this matter under review.

13 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was **AGREED** that the next meeting of the Panel would be held at 7:30pm on Thursday, 27 March 2003 in the Parish Room, 2 Fiddlers Lane, Saughall.