

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK PANEL held on 27 March 2003 in the Parish Room, 2 Fiddlers Lane, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor A Bailey (in the Chair)  
Councillor B Kerr  
Councillor A Marsden  
Councillor C Moss  
Councillor Mr RA Storrar  
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar (Invited Member)

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

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

14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Mr K Evans  
Councillor Mrs D Whitton

15 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were received.

16 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 13 February 2003 be **AGREED** as a correct record.

17 MEETING WITH CHESTER CITY COUNCIL'S PLANNERS

(a) Re-designation of land for Recreational Use – Hedgerow Removal - Planning Permission

The Panel received a report from the Chairman on the proceedings of a meeting held with Planning Officers, Messers Mark Dickens and Mike Dix, on 19 March 2003 in advance of the planning application being resubmitted.

Issues discussed were as follows:

The pond and its environs including fencing  
Layout of pitches and the cricket square  
The ditch and the need for the Environment Agency's agreement to culvert it  
The possibility of the pond and hedge areas being a natural habitat for Great Crested Newts and the need for a survey to be carried out as soon as possible  
Car parking provision/all weather pitch

The perimeter/boundary – Neighbour's privacy  
The inclusion of a bowling green

It was **AGREED** that:

- (1) the Chairman would contact one of the ecologists on a list supplied by Chester City Council Officers and request that an ecological assessment and survey of Great Crested Newts be carried out as soon as possible;
- (2) the Clerk be requested to contact Mr Mark Chadwick of the Environment Agency, detailing the proposal to remove the hedge and pipe the ditch along with reasons and requesting that he make a site visit as soon as possible so he can see at first hand that this is an exceptional case; and
- (3) the planning application be submitted to Chester City Council for determination once the result of actions of (1) and (2) are known.

(b) Uniformed Group's Headquarters - Planning Permission

Application Number: 02/01540/S73

Proposal: Variation of conditions 2 and 4 on planning reference 97/234/FUL to allow permanent permission for Scout Hut and to allow local sporting groups use of the facilities.

Location: Land adjacent to playing field, Fiddlers Lane, Saughall

Mr Dickenson presented the Clerk with a copy of the planning permission finally agreed by the Planning Authority for the above development to be carried out.

It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would send a copy of the planning permission to the Uniform Group's Chairman, Mr Tony Summers, for his information.

## 18 EXISTING GRANT APPLICATIONS

(a) Rural Children's Playgrounds and Recreation Area

The Clerk had been informed that as the Council was not in a position to remove the hedgerow and pipe the ditch, the grant of £400 available could not be claimed. There would be an opportunity to make a further application for funding in the next financial year.

(b) Community Safety Grant

The Clerk reported that she had made a claim for £825 available to supply and erect the perimeter fence and field gate. An invoice from Ringwood Fencing had been supplied along with the necessary supporting paperwork and there was no reason why it should not be paid in full.

(c) Local Panel North

The Clerk informed that she was only able to claim £3,013.74 of the £3,200.00 grant available because that was all of the expenditure incurred at present. This grant was in respect of match funding for the supply and erection of the perimeter fencing and field gate, soil testing, seating and the services of Mr Easby. All of

the necessary paperwork had been supplied by Mr Clive Roberts of Chester City Council, the officer responsible for paying the grant. Although there was a shortfall of £186.26 it was expected that it too could be claimed shortly when Mr Easby invoiced for other work he would be commissioned to carry out.

## 19 SITE VISITS AND ASSOCIATED ACTIVITY

Councillor Kerr reported in detail on the following activities:

- ?? One contractor had provided an estimate for sand slitting
- ?? Surveying work
- ?? Motty Test results – soil suitable for cricket
- ?? Importance of trained groundsmen and the Cricket Club's expertise in this area
- ?? Quotation for artificial wicket

It was **AGREED** that Mr Huxley would contact Emma Beggs of STRI to ensure that she was not making the wrong assumption over the standard of cricket to be played on the cricket square. If she was it may effect the specification. Mr Huxley would also obtain further quotations for an artificial wicket. He would make two reports to the next meeting of the Panel.

## 20 CONTRACTORS AND QUOTATION

### (a) Site Layout and Detailed Specification

The Panel considered the detailed layout drawn up by Mr Easby. It was **AGREED** that the following additions be included in the drawing before the planning application was submitted:

- ?? Basketball/5-a-side pitch
- ?? the hedgerow and trees
- ?? proposed Bowling Green

It was also **AGREED** that once the layout had been revised the Golden Jubilee Park Sub-Group (consisting of Councillors Kerr and Moss and Messers Bird and Easby) meet with a view to considering and drawing up the detailed specification needed before quotations could be invited.

### (b) Quotations

It was **AGREED** that the decision on who to invite to quote for the development work be deferred until the next meeting of the Panel.

## 21 PROJECT OFFICER

The Panel noted that the Council at its meeting on 3 March 2003 had agreed not to make an appointment for the time being. This matter would be revisited at the appropriate time.

## 22 MOLES

It was reported that the playing field was almost clear of moles.

## 23 EXTERNAL FUNDING

### (a) Football

It was noted that there had been no active participation from the Saughall Colts but that there was an exceptional reason for this.

The Parish Council could apply to the Football Foundation for funding but it had been agreed that it would be more sensible for the Colts to make the application with the Council as a supporter. The funding issue was not critical at the moment.

### (b) WREN

Councillor Kerr had the necessary paperwork to make a funding application to WREN but firm quotations were needed before it could be progressed by submitting detailed bids.

### (c) Cricket

Mr Huxley reported that he was progressing funding opportunities and already had £1,500 pledged from one source.

### (d) Other Funding Opportunities

Members had copies of the funding information supplied by Ms Sandra Lloyd, External Funding Officer at Chester City Council, and all opportunities would be explored and exploited once the preferred contractor was identified.

It was also reported that Chester City Council's Area Committees would control considerable funding in the next financial year that would be available for worthwhile projects such as the Golden Jubilee Park development.

## 24 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was **AGREED** that the next meeting would be held at 7:30pm on Thursday, 8 May 2003 in the Parish Room, 2 Fiddlers Lane, Saughall.