

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK FOCUS GROUP held on 25 March 2004 in the Parish Room, 2 Fiddlers Lane, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor A Bailey (in the Chair)
Councillor A Marsden
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar
Councillor RA Storrar
Councillor A Warrington
Councillor C Wynne-Eyton (Tree Warden)
Councillor Mrs J Young

Co-opted Members: Mr D Bird
Mr H Dobson
Mr B Huxley
Mr D Parry

25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor C Moss

26 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were received.

27 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Focus Group held on 26 February 2004 were **AGREED** as a correct record.

28 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION
- RE-DESIGNATION OF LAND FOR RECREATIONAL USE
- REMOVAL OF HEDGEROW

(a) Appointment of Project Manager

It was reported that the Council at its meeting on 1 March 2004 had appointed Mr D Bird as Project Manager for the Golden Jubilee Park development. Mr Bird had accepted this appointment on a purely voluntary basis.

(b) Site Layout

Further revisions had been carried out to the site layout on the advice of Mr Mark Dickens, Principal Planning Officer. A plan for the car park had been drawn up by Mr Tom Baker, an Architect, and he had also provided an accompanying letter for submission with the site layout and photographs. The car park would be of a similar standard to that of a supermarket. The Clerk had provided a covering letter and all documentation was to be handed personally to the Principal Planning Officer by Mr Bird the following day. On receipt it was expected that a “21 day notice” would be issued.

Mr C Burnham, a Civilian Officer of the Cheshire Constabulary, had been consulted over the site layout and had declared himself happy with the revisions. The District Engineer was also satisfied.

It was expected that the Parish Council's planning application would go before the Planning Board for determination at its April 2004 meeting.

Councillor Mrs Storrar would attend the Board meeting to make representations on behalf of the Parish Council. The Group discussed the content of the presentation she would make and suggested amendments as appropriate. The Chairman **AGREED** to revise the presentation and send it to Councillor Mrs Storrar.

29 REPORT OF THE GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK FUNDING WORKING PARTY
- GRANT AID OPPORTUNITIES

Mr Parry discussed the contents of a funding bid to WREN for a £50,000 contribution towards the Golden Jubilee Park development. The Group offered advice and information to assist the completion of the bid. It was noted that it was necessary for the Council to register with ENTRUST and Mr Parry **AGREED** to discuss this with Councillor Kerr. In the meantime the Clerk would circulate the bid for Members comments.

The Clerk reported that she had asked the Secretary of the Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils to obtain legal advice from NALC on the best way to proceed in respect of the development. The development was entirely reliant on grant aid and there were merits and demerits in establishing an Unincorporated Association. It would be able to access a lot of funding streams not available to the Parish Council. However, the Council could claim back its VAT on everything it paid out. This was an important consideration but it was known that some funders did cover VAT.

It may be better to establish a Charitable Trust to manage the Park once the scheme was complete rather than at the development stage. Alternatively, it may not be appropriate to establish one at all.

The Cheshire Secretary had agreed to contact NALC with a view to examining all options to find the best way forward to achieve maximum benefit. It was expected that a reply would be available soon.

It was considered that another option was for the Cricket and Football Clubs to seek funding under the umbrella of the Vernon Institute that was a registered charity and Mr Huxley, who was the Chairman of the Vernon Institute Management Committee, **AGREED** to ask his Committee to give consideration to this possibility at a future meeting.

Members also considered their current status as a Focus Group, the Council's proposal to set up a Committee with co-optees in the next Municipal Year, the advantage of being a partnership instead and whether such a forum would attract funding more easily. It was **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to the Council that instead of establishing a Golden Jubilee Park Committee with provisions to co-opt Members as and when necessary, it should give consideration to forming a Partnership with a separate constitution using that of the Saughall Youth Club as a model.

24 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was **AGREED** that the date and time of the next meeting of the Focus Group (Partnership) be held at 7:30pm on Thursday, 6 May 2004 in the Parish Room, 2 Fiddlers Lane, Saughall.