

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on 22 May 2008 in the Uniform Groups' Headquarters, Fiddlers Lane, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor DF Holman (in the Chair)  
Councillor RK Shukla  
Councillor RA Storrar  
Councillor Mrs JM Young

Invited Members: Councillor WI Humphrey  
Councillor JE Storrar

Representing Sporting

Organisations: Ged Williams (Greyhound Pub Football Team)  
Mike Jones (Saughall Thursday Football Club)  
Brian Huxley (Saughall Cricket Club)  
Alan Wilks (Saughall Cricket Club)

14 APOLOGIES FOR AUTHORISED ABSENCE

Apologies for authorised absence were received from Councillors Mrs J Johnson, Mrs H Thorniley-Jones and A Warrington.

15 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

16 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21 February 2008 be confirmed as a correct record.

17 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK

(a) Criminal Damage and Repairs to the Aerial Runway

It was reported that within a week of being installed in the Park the aerial runway had been vandalised (someone had tried to cut through the zip cord and had cut off the seat). Monster Play Ltd, the supplier had informed that it would cost £767.45 plus VAT to repair this play equipment. It was not known whether the quote included securing the surfacing – grass mats.

Everyone in attendance was agreeable to the aerial runway being repaired as soon as possible.

RESOLVED: That

(1) as many Members as possible who are not in attendance be asked if they are in favour of the aerial runway being repaired and if there is a majority in favour

the Clerk be requested to ask Monster Play Ltd to repair it as soon as possible;  
and

- (2) the Clerk be requested to contact PCSO Mike Butler to ascertain whether the vandalism is being pursued and if so to find out if any progress has been made.

(b) Additional CCTV Requirements

It was reported that Chester Security Ltd had moved one of the recently installed CCTV cameras so that it was now trained on the aerial runway and the goal-end in the hope that it would act as a deterrent to those who got pleasure from committing acts of vandalism.

RESOLVED:

That the Council be **RECOMMENDED** to note and endorse the action taken in moving one of the CCTV cameras to protect the aerial runway and the goal end .

(c) Park Benches

Members plotted on a plan of the Park where they would like the six benches that were in storage to be located. They agreed to take PCSO Mike Butler's advice on their proposal.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) subject to PCSO Mike Butler being happy with the proposal to install the benches in various locations around the Park, the Council be **RECOMMENDED** to agree the location of the seating as detailed on the plan;
- (2) the Clerk be requested to obtain instructions on how to install the benches from Maceman and Amstad, their supplier, as the instructions previously provided have been lost; and
- (3) the Council be **RECOMMENDED** to display notices in the Park stating that it is available for recreational purposes between the hours of sunrise and sunset.

(d) Maintenance Work Required

Members gave consideration to what further maintenance work was needed in the Park. Some strimming had already been undertaken at a cost of £250 to tidy up the Park prior to the Family Fun Day that had been held on 5 May 2008. It was noted that the side of the hedge inside the Park and the top needed to be cut as soon as the birds had finished nesting. Also, it had been agreed previously that trees or bushes would be planted beside the field gate and it was proposed that hazel and hawthorn trees should be put in after Christmas when they would be dormant. It was noted that the perimeter path required work (weeding and spraying).

It was proposed that youth groups in the village and particularly the Uniform Groups should be approached to see if they would be willing to carry out work on

some environmental projects in the Park and that the Council should, in return, make appropriate financial donations to boost their funds.

It was also proposed that the Cheshire Probation Service be approached to see if it was willing to carry out some work in the Park as part of its Community Service Programme carried out by offenders.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Field Committee be requested to meet to draw up a complete list of maintenance works required in the Golden Jubilee Park;
- (2) the Council be **RECOMMENDED** to make arrangements for the inside and top of the hedge in the Golden Jubilee Park to be cut as soon as the birds have finished nesting;
- (3) the Council be **RECOMMENDED** to contact youth groups in the village and the Cheshire Probation Service to ascertain whether they are willing to take on environmental projects in the Golden Jubilee Park for which they will be recompensed with an appropriate financial contribution; and
- (4) in relation to (3) above Mr Huxley be requested to provide the Clerk with the contact details for the Cheshire Probation Service.

(e) Proposed Alteration to the Gateway

To ensure easier access to the car park it had been proposed that the gateway to the park be altered. One quotation had been received and it was agreed that another one would be sought. Carillion had agreed to supply some additional Cheshire Railings but it was not yet known if it planned to carry out any work. It was thought that it would probably supply and paint the railings. Members considered that it might be possible to combine this work with the alteration to the gateway.

RESOLVED:

That the Council be **RECOMMENDED** to consider any quotations received at its next meeting on 2 June 2008.

(f) Insurance Cover for the New Play Equipment

The Clerk reported that she had provided Allianz Cornhill with the details of the new play equipment, the policy had been revised accordingly and further cheques had been signed and sent to it to cover the additional costs involved.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(g) Joint Use Agreement

The Joint Use Agreement had been reviewed and revised at the last meeting of the Council held on 12 May 2008 and now required signing by the representatives of

the three parties involved (the Parish Council, Saughall Cricket Club and the Greyhound Pub Football Team).

A request had been received for the Saughall Thursday Football Club to be allowed to use the Golden Jubilee Park facilities for its second Team's home matches. It's first Team played at the County Officers' Club in Upton.

Mr Huxley raised concerns over the amount of usage the outer field would get and the need to ensure appropriate maintenance of the ground if it was to be sustainable. It had to be flat and free of rivets if cricket was to be played on it. Certain standards must be achieved and the play surface must be maintained to ensure this. He did not think that one football pitch could sustain two teams. However, it was not thought possible to accommodate two pitches within the Park. It was now also too late to roll the field; the opportunity to get this work done had been lost.

If two football teams were to use one football pitch it may mean that by the end of the season the outer field ended up in a condition where it might not be able to be brought back to a suitable standard on which to play cricket. The Cricket Club was having its ground inspected soon and it was very worried about the state of it as a result of the damage caused by the Greyhound Pub Team. If the land was not declared at a suitable standard the Club would not be able to play on it until a further inspection was carried out later in the cricket season and there had been improvement. In principle Mr Huxley would not oppose any sporting organisation using the facilities providing adequate donations were made in respect of the ground's necessary upkeep.

Mr Williams informed that the Greyhound Pub Football Team did not have the funding to employ grounds men to look after the pitch. However, Mr Huxley suggested that it was essential that the Team asked for and got volunteers to carry out essential and regular maintenance work.

Mr Jones informed that the Thursday Football Club would need to know very soon whether the Council was agreeable to allowing it to use the Park's facilities so that it had time to look elsewhere, if necessary. Use of the Vernon Institute's sports pitches on Seahill Road was not a possibility because if they were used the Club would have to register with the Welsh Football Association not the English one as the land was in Wales.

Mr Huxley informed that some youngsters had been on the Park practicing their golf swings and consequently had caused damage to the cricket square.

It was noted that if the sporting organisations could not work together the Council would have the final say over who could use the Golden Jubilee Park.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Council be **RECOMMENDED** to make no decision yet on whether or not the Saughall Thursday Football Club can use the Golden Jubilee Park for its home matches;
- (2) the two football teams be requested to measure up to ascertain whether there is enough room in the Golden Jubilee Park to accommodate two football pitches;

(3) Mr Huxley be requested to let the Council know the outcome of the cricket ground inspection as soon as it is available;

(4) Council be **RECOMMENDED** to obtain and erect signs in the Park prohibiting the use of golf clubs; and

(5) the revised Joint Use Agreement be signed and returned to the Clerk.

(h) Request for the Saughall Cricket Club to Appoint Marshals

The Cricket Club had been requested to appoint Marshals when it played its first match and the Council at its meeting on 12 May 2008 had agreed to take a view, depending on how things went, on whether to agree to the Club's request that the aerial runway be closed as a safety precaution when cricket matches were being played on the Golden Jubilee Park. (Minute No. 101(e)/ 2008 refers.)

RESOLVED:

That the request from the Saughall Cricket Club that the Council closes the aerial runway when cricket matches are being played be revisited after the first match is played in the Park.

(i) Quarterly Play Area Inspection

The Committee considered the Quarterly Play Area Inspection Report commissioned from Morral Play Solutions Ltd. It was reported that all the maintenance work identified, with the exception of parts (8) cableway/grass mats and (9) goalposts/grass, could be undertaken by Mr Wilkinson. Monster Play Ltd would carry out the repairs associated with (8).

RESOLVED:

That Morral Play Solutions be requested to quote or advise who can quote for the work detailed under part (9) of the Report so that the Council can consider it at its next meeting.

(j) Chester City Council's Contributions to Play Areas in Parished Areas 2008-09

It was reported that the Clerk had made a funding application to Chester City Council for £5,000 to match fund the supply and installation of a 4m high Space Net at a cost of £ 9,371.30 plus vat. The decision was awaited and expected soon.

It was noted that grant aid contributions from the new Cheshire West and Chester Council during the 2009/10 Municipal year was expected to be very limited indeed.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(k) Chester City Council's Contributions to Play Areas in Parished Areas 2007-08 Round 2

Before the stepping stones and balancing beam were installed in the Golden Jubilee Park, Mr Wilkinson needed to know the age group of the children who would be playing on them, how high above the ground the balancing beam had to be, and how high and far apart the stepping stones had to be.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to find out the information needed to install the play equipment in the Park from Timberline, who has supplied it.

(l) The Next Phase of the Park's Development

The Council had agreed to obtain expert advice from the Cheshire County Playing Fields Association on what facilities could be included in the next development phase of the Park and was awaiting possible dates for holding a meeting/site visit in respect of this.

The Council had also asked local people to submit their ideas and those received were included with the agenda for Members information.

It was noted that a boules court had been put forward as a suggestion and that one could probably be laid quite cheaply. Also, it was considered that BMX ramps could be provided on a tight budget if volunteers would come forward to assist such a project by carrying out the work required. Members were pleased with the installation of the goal-end and tarmac pad and agreed that it may be appropriate to provide the same again in the future, opposite to that which was now in situ with the end result being an all weather sports pitch with goals at both ends.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Clerk be requested to try to find out how much it would cost to lay a boules court; and
- (2) the Clerk be requested to chase up the Cheshire County Playing Fields Association's Chairman, Ms K Tonge, regarding dates for a meeting/site visit in order to receive her expert advice on the future development of the Golden Jubilee Park.

(m) Funding

The Committee had regard to the Council's budget, its cash to bank reconciliation and current and future funding arrangements. It was noted that there was £26,716.27 in the Golden Jubilee Park and £8,915.99 in the Play Equipment designated funds respectively. The Council was expecting an invoice for £17,950.00 plus vat in respect of the goal-end and an invoice for £767.45 plus vat to repair the aerial runway. If it was successful with its funding application for the 4m high space net it would have to contribute £4,371.30. Members were therefore

happy in the knowledge that the Council had enough funding available to purchase the space net subject to a successful funding bid from Chester City Council.

RESOLVED:

That the Council be **RECOMMENDED** to endorse the purchase of a 4m high space net if it is successful in attracting the £5,000 grant it has applied for from Chester City Council's Contributions to Play Areas in Parished Areas 2008-09.