

Minutes of the Special Parish Meeting of the Parish of Old Marston held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 8 November 2005 at the Mortimer Hall

Members Present

- Mr. C.W. Haynes Chairman
- Mrs. M.C. Stone Vice-chairman
- Mesdames. Cox and Tiwari
- Messrs Bartleet, Batey, Cann, Cox, Holmes, and Swift
- The Clerk Mr. L.M. Garner in attendance
- City Councillors Mrs. M. Clarkson and Mrs. C. van Zyl
- Approximately 75 members of the electorate attended with a similar number of interested members of the public

Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Mr. McGinn

Condition of the drainage of Boult's Lane Recreation Ground

The Chairman asked Mr. Batey to detail the problem of water logging of the pitch and play area. He said that the original drainage system was laid in about 1970. A professional investigation showed that tree roots affected the main pipes and the laterals largely clogged, with covering materials no longer porous enough to be effective. Further advice being that a new system was needed to restore the surface to useable condition. Methods had changed and a new system would be more effective and longer lasting. The alternative of doing nothing was considered no further.

As the pitch is used by Marston Saints a grant of about 60% could be expected from the Football Foundation (Lottery funds) provided that the Club had a long-term agreement for its use. This had been agreed and is to be subject to legal approval.

The overall cost between £40,000 and £45,000 would leave the Council to fund the balance of between £16,000 to £18,000 for which balances are available.

The Meeting was addressed by Barry Parsons, Chairman of Marston Saints F.C. who stressed the community involvement in the running of the Club and its benefits to the youth of the area. One team was now playing girl's football this season and two would play next. Discussions were proceeding for the use of the Marsh Lane Field. The poor state of the ground had caused the Club to spend £3,500 with temporary effect.

A member of the Allotments Association drew attention to the obstruction of the access to the allotments by cars belonging to those involved in football. Mr. Parsons acknowledged the problem and said that arrangements for the use of the Court Place car park were proceeding.

Mr. Batey then proposed:

1. To proceed with the drainage work necessary to bring Boult's Lane recreation ground up to a standard consistent with that which would be required for a future grant towards a new pavilion.
2. Following such work, planning should continue with a view to replacing the pavilion by 2008, subject to a further Parish meeting.

Seconded by Mrs. Nurse and carried there being no votes against with one abstention declared.

Discussion then concentrated on the proposed new pavilion. The Council had agreed that the preferred architect be asked to prepare plans and obtain planning consent for about £3,000 that would permit an estimate of the overall cost to be available. Only then would it be possible to see what grants would be available and arrangements made to fund the balance.

It was suggested that the Scout Hut and the pavilion be demolished and rebuilt as the ground floor of some flats, probably entirely funded by the developer. The bonus would be better accommodation for the Club and Scouts. The Clerk would enquire of the Charity Commission whether that was possible since the land was held under a Charitable Trust for recreation of the inhabitants of Old Marston.

Another would be the possibility of a loan but this would be subject to the Secretary of State's approval usually obtained from the County Council's annual allocation for which there is usually competition. Consent is not automatic.

A further suggestion was made that the Council should review its assets to see whether funds could be released. Shared occupation and the possibility of a building lease were also suggested

The Chairman assured the Meeting that a further public meeting would be held subsequent to planning consent being obtained but before any commitment was entered into.

Chapman