

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of
PERTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the Perton Civic Centre on
Monday 23rd October 2006 @ 7:00pm**

Present A.K.James [Chairman]
D.J. Billson
Mrs. P.N. Pitt
Mrs A.James
Mrs. P.C.Bromley
C.J.Bromley
A.A. Bourke
R.J.Marshall

Barbara Juniper – South Staffs Council
Katy White – South Staffs Council

121/07 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were offered and accepted from Mrs. P.Allen & Mrs R.Heseltine and Mrs J.R.Williams

122/07 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None declared

123/07 **MULTI-USE GAMES AREA UPDATE**

Cllr R.J.Marshall opened the discussion stating that at a meeting with local youths on Monday 16th October via the 'battle bus', Graham Bott (County Youth Services) had advised that grant requests should not be submitted until we have full project details and costs. Meanwhile a request had been submitted Wednesday last via Youth Bank for £10k to cover some early project expenses, a decision is anticipated by end October.

Barbara Juniper advised that a JCB had been available following work on the Penk and had been diverted to dig a trench from the 'Temple' corner of the sports field to the centre area. The expected residue of runway was found but was some two feet deep so is not thought likely to interfere with the project in a significant way. It is envisaged that this work is sufficient by way of 'ground survey'.

Cllr A.K.James suggested that time should be given to evaluate the feedback from the Parish Plan questionnaire, though accepted that it would be useful to ascertain project costs.

Barbara stated that considerable design and survey work would be required to move forwards and asked if successful with the initial grant request would the funds be utilised for a 'level' survey and a 'design' to enable preparation of a bid – we will need a full estimate and specification to proceed.

Cllr C.J.Bromley said that some concerns had been expressed by local residents concerning the possibility of a 'skateboard park' – it was generally agreed that the priority should be the 'MUGA' and discussion of other facilities would dilute this

project.

Katy White stressed the need to get the initial bid right as funds become unlocked with a good specification and a minimum of two supporting quotes. It is also important to refer to the provision of a 'MUGA' rather than 'all-weather' pitch which usually means astro-turf which has different considerations.

Cllr Marshal said that the term 'Pyg Muga' appeared to be the favoured label. (Perton Youth Group – Multi Use Games Area)

Katy further explained the financial grant possibilities which were the subject of a previously distributed memo. Broadly these include the 'Youth Bank' for small local funding and the 'Youth Capital Bank' and Youth Opportunities for larger projects requiring larger capital sums. Often the upper level of costs determines the percentage level of funding that may be offered e.g. 50% / 60% / 100%.

Additionally there is a Big Lottery Fund one page questionnaire and search facility that can be utilised to determine what funding may be available. Examples include Community Investment Fund and Sports Awards For All. The Youth Opportunities Fund is community driven and favours projects that incorporate physical activities across the ages and sexes and again proper preparation is very important.

The Big Lottery Fund has targeted District Councils to support formal 'Play Strategies'. South Staffs have one of the lowest levels of funding due to perceived lower needs but nonetheless has a commitment of £200k available for a strategic plan and portfolio of bids, this is time related. By March 2007 a strategy and action plan must be completed, meaning that by end Nov / Dec 2006 local community groups are required to bid for this money in approximately £50k parcels. Big Lottery Fund will make available guidance notes which will set the framework for bid proposals and submissions which need to be complete by Feb 2007 with decisions available by July 2007. Cllr A. Bourke enquired as to whether there were currently any schemes in view, Katy said not but consultations had taken place earlier via the 'Sussed' groups.

RESOLVED

- Intent to proceed with Design statement
- PPC will utilise SSDC as agency for project. Barbara Juniper to provide focus on levels survey to determine specification. SSDC are currently 'at capacity' for works of this type but can procure the appropriate services.
- Perton Youth Group has applied for initial grant to cover ground survey or similar works and is sponsored by Perton Parish Council.
- Cllr R.J.Marshall to ensure that Graham Bott contacts Barbara Juniper to specify the nature of the bid for the initial £10k grant.
- Cllr A.K.James will act as liaison between PPC and SSDC.
- Letter dated 24th October 2006 from R.Levesley to be given serious consideration regarding the points raised which include concerns over responsibility for ongoing management once the project is completed. This to include daily inspections, safety and lighting at night.
- Consideration must be given to merits of PPC leasing the site from SSDC – this may impact need for planning permission.
- Formal thanks were extended to Barbara Juniper for the work supplied to dig the initial survey trench and to Barbara and Katy for support and assistance to date.

124/07 **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

The meeting considered the quotation provided for the install / de-install of the existing Parish lights together with the costing for extending the lights to new areas. Concern was expressed that the organisations deriving direct benefit from the lights were making no financial contribution to them and also only one quotation was available. The Clerk explained that the single quotation was due to two reasons, firstly the matter had appeared late on the agenda and therefore time was at a premium and secondly the company quoting had undercut previous competitors in the past and, due to the specialist nature of the work, had knowledge of the circuitry and layout that would not be immediately available to others.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would attempt to seek an alternative quote if possible but in any event would place orders only for the install / de-install of the lights as per 2005 with no enhancements or additions other than the inclusion of a new arrangement for The Civic centre where the existing lights were not included in the previous years arrangements and have deteriorated beyond practical repair. Total cost will be in the region of £6000.00.

125/07 **SPRING BULBS**

RESOLVED that bulbs be offered free of charge to local area organisations, schools and members of the public requesting them. The Clerk will contact the Wolverhampton Chronicle to request that the 'FOC' offer is publicised via the Perton section of the free sheet.

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 13th November 2006 @ 7.00 pm

The meeting closed @ 8.20 pm

**Cllr. A.K.James
Chairman
13th November 2006**