

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**CULTURE AND SPORT SELECT COMMITTEE**  
**TUESDAY, 15 NOVEMBER, 2005 AT 4.00 P.M.**  
**IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**

**PART 1**

PRESENT: Councillors            Bennett, Mrs. D.J. (Chairman)  
   Williams, A. (Vice-Chairman)

Allen, F.W.C.                    Jones, Mrs. A.E.  
Beddows, J.                      Meaden, R.G.  
Easton, R.                        Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.

Also present by invitation: Grocott, M.R. (Culture and Sport Leader)

**18. Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 September, 2005 be approved as a correct record.

**19. Petition – St. Thomas Drive, Rawnsley – Play Equipment**

A Briefing Note was circulated to Members.

Chris Sanderson, Landscape Development Officer, advised Members that, due to commitments to other major projects, there had been no progress on this matter. A report on this issue would be submitted to the next meeting of the Select Committee.

Councillor Mrs. Stretton reported that the play area was installed when the housing development was erected. However, as there were no longer any toddlers living on the estate using the equipment the area was attracting youths who were causing a nuisance to residents. The residents supported removal of the equipment and a petition had been submitted to Council requesting closure of the play area.

Mr. Sanderson advised that, since the petition had been submitted, the Police and Street Wardens had been involved to deal with any anti social behaviour in the area.

Members discussed the problems that may occur should the play equipment be removed and requested to be consulted on any proposals to replace the equipment.

Members noted that similar problems existed at other play areas within the District. The Committee discussed options to address the problems, including strategic tree or shrub planting in order to deter the gathering of youths. However, it was noted that this had a cost implication.

Members also noted that play equipment could not be removed and re-used on a different site for health and safety reasons.

RESOLVED:

That an update report on the play equipment at St. Thomas Drive be submitted to the next meeting of the Select Committee.

**20. Petition – Prospect Village – Provision of Teen Shelter**

A Briefing Note was circulated to Members.

Mr. Sanderson advised that, following support from the Local Strategic Partnership, a fund of £2,000 was available towards the provision of a teen shelter. The cost of installing a unit was £4,000. However, there was currently not enough money available to enable a teen shelter to be installed.

The Committee were advised that two applications for Ward Members initiatives would be submitted to secure the additional funding. These would require approval by Staffordshire County Council. If the application for funding was successful it was anticipated that the unit would be installed in February/March 2006.

Councillor Mrs. Stretton expressed her disappointment that the shelter was not yet installed. Residents had been informed in February/March 2004 that funding was available to erect the shelter and they had been requested to indicate a preferred location.

In response to this, the young people in the area had submitted the petition to the Council expressing their preferred location and requesting additional facilities.

Mr. Sanderson advised that, prior to installation, a meeting would be arranged with residents in order to agree a suitable location. The additional facilities requested in the petition would be subject to further funding.

**21. Play Area – Howard Crescent**

A Briefing Note was circulated to Members.

Mr. Sanderson reported that, following a number of consultation exercises, the benches and equipment had been removed and the site temporarily closed.

The Environment Select Committee on 22 November, 2005 was due to consider a report on PPG17 – Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation. The report outlined that Local Planning Authorities were required to undertake an assessment of the quantity and quality of existing Open Space and indoor recreation facilities, assess the community's existing and future needs and set standards for future provision. Following the outcome of this report, consideration would need to be given to refurbishment of the area with more age appropriate equipment.

Councillor Mrs. Stretton advised that the residents in Howard Crescent were predominately pensioners and had indicated that they did not want a play area adjacent to their homes.

Prior to installing any play equipment, Members considered that Ward Members and residents should be consulted on any proposals.

Mr. Sanderson advised that two consultations had already been undertaken. The first consultation had involved the users of the play equipment who had indicated that they would like the equipment improved. The second consultation had involved residents of Howard Crescent who had indicated that they would like the equipment removed. He further advised that the Council was obliged to have a certain amount of play areas in each of the Wards.

The Culture and Sport Leader, Councillor Grocott, requested to speak and, with the agreement of the Chairman, he informed the Committee that the first consultation exercise with users of the play equipment had been carried out prior to the skate park being built at Hednesford Park.

The Committee considered that the play area was located in the wrong place and should be relocated. It was suggested that the area by Howard Crescent could be turned into a green open space area for use by the pensioners.

RESOLVED:

That, following the outcome of the PPG17 report due to be considered at the Environment Select Committee on 22 November, 2005 a report on the position of the Howard Crescent play area be submitted to a future meeting of the Select Committee

## **22. Leisure Concessions**

The Chairman reported that she had presented the recommendations of the Select Committee to Cabinet on 3 November 2005 in relation to the review of Leisure concessions.

Wayne Goodwin, Leisure Strategy Manager, advised that Cabinet supported the recommendations but considered a greater assessment of the proposed concessions needed to be undertaken in order that Cabinet could determine the impact on the Council's budget.

Mike Edmonds, Head of Commercial Operations, advised that before the concessions could be implemented, Information Technology needed to be in place in order that the scheme could be monitored.

Wayne Goodwin reported that quotes were being obtained for the IT system currently used at Rugeley Leisure Centre being implemented at the Chase Leisure Centre and the Museum of Cannock Chase. It was anticipated that, once funding had been identified, the system could be implemented within 12 weeks.

RESOLVED:

That an update report on Leisure Concessions be submitted to a future meeting of the Select Committee prior to reporting back to Cabinet.

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CHAIRMAN