

Cheddleton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD HELD IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, CHEDDLETON ON FRIDAY, 28th. SEPTEMBER 2018.

ATTENDANCE - Vice-Chairman – Councillor M.T. Bowen.
Councillor - Mrs. B. Hine, K. Harvey, H.R. Jennings, S. Scalise.
13 Members of the public.

APOLOGIES - Councillor – Ms. C.Y. Ball, Mrs. D. Hartley, M.P. Worthington.

Copy of the minutes from the last Public Meeting on 15th. August 2018 were handed out to attendees.

3 PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER - PSPO

Councillor Bowen reported that he had spoken with the Chief of Police, Inspector Thorley and that it is very unlikely obtaining the PSPO for Cheddleton Playing Fields would be successful as there has to be a long history of incidents reported to even be looked at, as there is very few that have been reported it is not likely to happen. People need to be caught and have lots of evidence and there have only been two PSPO's locally which are Leek Bus Station and another in Biddulph. Unfortunately, it doesn't really come with great powers. Councillor Bowen stressed that any incidents need to be reported to the Police at which point Councillor Mrs. Hine spoke about an item that she had found on a seat in the Bowling Green which was a pouch that contained scales which was possibly a drug dealers' equipment. This being a big issue of criminality and a matter of keeping our children safe. At this point a resident spoke up and said he had found several items of drug paraphernalia which he had already reported to the Police. Councillor Jennings made a point that it wasn't really a good idea to approaching people on your own as it could lead to being attacked. Another account was given of approaching youths by another resident who filmed the discussion as much for his sake as for the youths but he made sure that there were other people who could see him. Councillor Bowen would now go back and have a further discussion with Inspector Thorley about these issues.

4 WARDENS TO PATROL

Councillor Bowen had also discussed about having Wardens with Inspector Thorley who said that they would need to work with the Police and be trained. There is a danger that this could turn into a group of vigilantes. So, if we have volunteers we will have to involve the Police in training up said volunteers to make it legal and proper. Also, any incidents need to be reported to the Police either via 999 as it is happening or 101 if it is to report that something has happened, damage etc.

5 BEST PRACTICE

Councillor Harvey stated that it isn't only happening on Cheddleton Playing Fields it is a Country wide issue so therefore why are we not seeking advice as to what the best practice is and what other areas have done to tackle these issues. He went on to say that Parks are all the same and are no longer providing what the people want as the community needs to be consulted. They need to be made to feel that it is their space and what they want and then they may want to look after it. Councillor Bowen went on to report that he had been involved in Brough Park Skate Park which they did involve the younger people in asking what they want and he had received more criticism than a little for doing so and what a waste of money the

project had been. It's very difficult to please everyone and what is wanted now will be out dated in the future. A resident suggested that maybe SMDC could help fund something for the young people to do. Councillor Jennings stated at least agree to a cinema or bowling alley in Leek. Councillor Bowen stated that during the six week holiday they do provide space scheme which is very well attended but it's not really the young people who attend this that are causing the trouble.

Councillor Scalise thinks the priority is to stop the criminality and drugs before deciding what to put on the Playing Fields. He spoke to youths who reported that it was somebody from Cheddleton who had set fire to the zip wire platform. If people would come forward and an example was made of the culprits it would be a deterrent to others causing damage. A resident said he had been warned by the Police to stop being a nuisance because he kept phoning to report youths hanging around the back of his property so he had installed a bright security light which had stopped them from congregating at the back of his house because they could now be seen.

A lady had come with her grand-daughter as they spend time playing tennis to ask if the tennis net could be replaced as they use the court 2-3 times a week. Also, she was willing to help keep it tidy and trim around the outside and weeding the actual court. Councillor Mrs. Hine reported that Mr. Beresford had actually put weed killer down this week so the court should be weed free in a few weeks. But as for the tennis net every time it gets replaced it is cut so not at the moment.

The Bowling Green seems to be the main spot where drugs are being used. A resident suggested that maybe some of the houses could be used to put up CCTV to observe what is going on as he has one in his back garden which is infer red and only cost around £35 so if a few houses had them pointing towards the field it may be a deterrent.

There are some good things in the village with the Rugby and Cricket Clubs and Councillor Jennings reported that the Rugby Club are interested in using the Playing Fields to train on. This will be good as if younger people get involved and a load of rugby players are on there it may put off people causing trouble. It was requested that they use the car park and not park cars on the estate as this causes residents to get upset. This raised another issue about access as the road to the car park needs some repair, as to who is actually responsible for the road. A resident who was involved in the original Playing Fields Committee has got a file with details in it about the history and it was agreed to be given to the Clerk to store for future reference.

6 ZIP WIRE DAMAGE

Councillor Bowen reported that the replacement platform is quoted to cost £5500 which the insurance company will pay apart from the £250 excess on the policy. Or do we replace it in Steel at a cost of £7700. A suggestion was made that maybe Batemans could make it to specification for the lower amount. Councillor Bowen went on to state that this would be difficult as it would have to adhere to Health and Safety Standards. He went on to show the residents the Playground Inspection report that Fields in Trust get done every year with the number of items that require attention. A 46-page document. Councillor Jennings suggested grassed mound as the platform rather than paying to have it replaced. It was agreed that the Clerk would speak to Insurers about the amount of time we have to decide best outcome. She will also speak to Inspection Company about the use of a mound would this be allowed and a bespoke made platform. Councillor Scalise will speak to Batemans with the specifications of the platform to see if it is something they could do.

7 **CONCLUSION**

Councillor Scalise who chairs the Playing Fields Committee wanted to hold these meetings to get people involved and by tonight's attendance it is only a few who seem to be interested. The next meeting of the Cheddleton Playing Fields Committee is to take place on Tuesday 30th October 2018 so it was agreed to get the Police involved and for any volunteers for Wardens to attend the meeting to be trained and work out a Rota etc. It was felt that any dog walkers who already walk the area would be ideal and especially those who know the people who hang around on the Playing Fields. It was also suggested what will be required such as hi-vis vests and torches. The Clerk will get in touch with Police Sergeant Bland and ask if he can attend.

There being no further business the Vice-Chairman declared the meeting closed.