

AGENDA ITEM NO.

**MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
OF THE
HENLEAZE, STOKE BISHOP & WESTBURY-on-TRYM
NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEE
23 NOVEMBER, 2012 AT 11 AM
HELD AT THE CITY HALL, COLLEGE GREEN
BRISTOL BS1 5TR**

MEMBERS

Ward Councillors

Councillors Clare Champion-Smith (A), Glenise Morgan (P) - Henleaze
Councillors Peter Abraham (P), John Goulandris (P) - Stoke Bishop
Councillors Geoff Gollop (P), Alastair Watson (P) - Westbury-on-Trym

Also present :

Andrew McGrath-Area Coordinator;
Steve Gregory-Clerk to the Neighbourhood Committee;
Richard Fletcher-Neighbourhood Engagement Manager.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Champion-Smith.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following non pecuniary interests were declared -

(i) Councillor Abraham as Chair of the Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee;

(ii) Councillor Morgan as an occasional substitute member of the Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee;

(iii) Councillor Watson as Director of Coombe Dingle Sports Trust which, it was noted, had an interest in the sports facilities at Stoke Lodge Parkland.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Members of the Committee had received the public forum statements in advance of the meeting.

The Statements were taken into consideration by the Committee when reaching a decision. (A copy of the Public Forum submissions are held in the Minute Book).

4. STOKE LODGE PARKLAND CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

The Committee received a report from Richard Fletcher, Neighbourhood Engagement Manager about the latest position regarding play facilities at Stoke Lodge Parkland and the associated application for Town and Village Green status on the site.

The Commons Registration Authority's representative clarified the general legal position on town and village greens -

- any member of the public could make a Town and Village Green application;
- at a public inquiry an independent inspector would consider evidence from both parties and then make recommendations to the Commons Registration Authority;
- DEFRA (*Management and Protection of registered town and village greens: Frequently asked questions*) stated that 'if a site registered as a Town and Village Green works for the better enjoyment of a green it may not be a contravention of either of the 19th century statutes (*but depending on their nature may still need planning permission*) but it would depend on the facts.

At this point the Chair gave the public an opportunity to ask any questions, none were asked.

The Committee then entered into debate and the following points were made -

- it was acknowledged that the report highlighted the risks, both real and hypothetical, to making a decision prior to the outcome of the Town and Village Green application, however it was considered that risk factor was low;

- serious concern was expressed about the lack of children's play facilities in the area and that this had been a long standing concern for local residents;
- concern about the potential loss of playing field space was discussed however the Committee were advised that this had been discussed with Cotham School and that the playing field pitches could be re-configured to accommodate the proposed children's play area.

On being put to the vote the Committee unanimously -

RESOLVED - that an investment of S.106 income, to fund a play area at Stoke Lodge Playing Fields at location 'A' as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be agreed.

(The meeting ended at 11.20 am)

CHAIR

Note:

After the meeting had closed a public forum participant (Statement no. 18) asked if the reference to 'Friends of Stoke Lodge' on page 6 of the report could be changed to read 'Save Stoke Lodge Parkland'. The Clerk agreed to annotate this in the official record.