

MALMESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Leisure and Youth Committee Extraordinary Meeting held at Malmesbury Town Hall on Tuesday 22 July 2008 at 8pm.

Present: Cllrs S Cox, A Davis, P Dove, J Lawton, S Killane, M Thomas (Cllrs Blake, Snell & Woodcock joined at 8.30pm)

In Attendance: Claire Edmeston, Lisa Johnson, Heather Gibson, Georgina Lockett and Nick Green of Action for Children on Reeds Farm.

Cllr R Cinnamond of North Wiltshire District Council and Mr Mike Hasted Senior Regeneration Officer North Wiltshire District Council.

23. Apologies Cllr Sanderson

24. Declarations of Interest Cllr P Dove declared a personal interest in item 25 but remained in the meeting.

25. Reeds Farm Proposals and Design Brief

Cllr Killane introduced Mrs Claire Edmeston Chair of Action for Children on Reeds Farm.

Mrs Edmeston summarised the aims of Action for Children on Reeds Farm, how the group was formed and what the original constitution of the group set out to do. A design brief was distributed to members and Mrs Edmeston explained that this was the conclusion of further consultation carried out by the Reeds Farm group. This consultation was in addition to two surveys already carried out by Malmesbury Town Council, which had been used as part of the original brief submitted to NWDC to obtain a share of lottery funding.

Mrs Edmeston explained that following a public meeting arranged by the Town Council and Action for Children on Reeds Farm, a further 4 meetings were held which enabled the group to reach broad agreement with residents and produce a design brief which will now be submitted to NWDC.

A number of changes have been made to the original design but it is hoped these changes address concerns raised by residents, including drainage following flooding of some homes adjacent to the site in recent months, anti-social behaviour and the impact on those living nearby. The spirit of the design brief is however very much the same as the original and it is hoped the lottery organisation will understand this.

Cllr Killane introduced Mr Mike Hasted who made the following points:

- It may be difficult to persuade the lottery organisation to accept these changes, however NWDC will endeavour to explain them to the lottery organisation in support of the scheme.
- NWDC won't dictate the type of equipment chosen but will consider equipment from a maintenance point of view.
- When the tender goes out it will include the first 12 months maintenance.
- Arrangements for maintaining the grass is still to be decided between the Town Council and NWDC or the new unitary authority.
- A meeting has now taken place between Persimmon Homes and NWDC regarding the unadopted land to the rear of Reeds Farm. Despite initial enthusiasm expressed to NWDC to adopt this land,

Persimmon now state they may have to reconsider their position in the light of the current economic climate and the impact this has had on their business. However a letter confirming their decision is still to be received by NWDC.

- The tender will go to 4 play companies (hopefully by the end of August or the beginning of September) and a deadline set for its return (between 4 to 6 weeks). A decision will be made taking into account the required maintenance for the equipment and how the overall scheme meets the brief. Malmesbury Town Council and Action for Children on Reeds Farm can have some input regarding the final decision.

Some discussion took place and the following points were made:

- The lottery organisation should be obliged to take account of this additional consultation carried out by the Reeds Farm group.
- If following Mike Hasted's investigations it turns out that Persimmon do have certain legal obligations regarding the land, Cllr Cinnamond will assist with negotiations as District Councillor for Malmesbury.
- Alternative legal arrangements should be considered if NWDC is unable to adopt this additional land, for example leasing the land for a nominal sum or placing equipment on the site even though ownership is retained by Persimmon.

Cllr Killane outlined the next steps to be taken, as follows:

- The design brief will now be handed over to NWDC who will make representations to the lottery organisation.
- Mr Mike Hasted will investigate further the original section 106 agreement and any legal obligations Persimmon may have in relation to the unadopted land.
- A final meeting will take place between NWDC, the Town Council and Action for Children on Reeds Farm to view the play company tenders. The most suitable scheme will be selected.

Cllr Killane thanked the Action for Children on Reeds Farm group on behalf of Malmesbury own Council for their hard work and effort in producing the design brief.

The meeting closed at 9:15pm