

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 19 OCTOBER 2009
AT THE VILLAGE HALL, STATION ROAD, BROUGHTON ASTLEY**

PRESENT: Councillors C Golding, D G Brown, N D Bannister, C Grafton-Reed, P Whiffin, C Evans, C Porter, Mrs M Stell and A J Rowe,

Also present: County Councillor Bill Liquorish.

APOLOGIES

989 Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Mrs L Blockley, R H Capewell, P J Dann, Miss J Gamble, Miss N Smith and Mrs M Kelman.

Apologies were also received from District Councillor Mark Graves

990 **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

No declarations of interest were received.

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 8 OCTOBER 2009

991 Councillor Golding moved and Councillor N D Bannister seconded confirmation and adoption of the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8 October 2009 which were approved and accepted unanimously.

992 **ADIZONE MULTI-SPORTS FACILITY**

The Chairman opened the meeting with a re-cap of the issue to be discussed at the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting.

The Parish Council had been offered the opportunity to submit a bid as part of a partnership for an 'Adizone' – an external multi-sports centre, created to celebrate the 2012 Olympic Games. The cost of the Adizone is around £150,000, of which the partnership would be expected to fund at least £75,000. Ongoing costs including maintenance and insurance would be approximately £3,200 per annum for a period of around 20 years.

In order to submit the bid in time for the deadline of 30 October 2009, the Parish Council had been requested to 'bank role' the entire bid using Section 106 developer contributions. HDC would then seek to offset some of the S106 funding via grant monies but very little is expected in the near to medium term.

The location favoured by the partnership was in the grounds of Thomas Estley Community College (TECC) near the Youth shelter, with the second choice being the Devitt Way open space. The Chairman read aloud a letter received that morning from the Governors of TECC requesting that the Youth Shelter should be fenced off using 1.6 metre high fencing; which he considered to be an indication that the Governors would similarly not want the Adizone to be accessible directly from the School.

The Chairman requested that all Members present should express their views prior to any proposal and vote being taken on whether the Parish Council should support the bid for an Adizone using Section 106 developer contributions of £75,000.

Councillor Bannister

Councillor Bannister said that he supported the bid in principle as it would be an exciting way for the village to mark the 2012 Olympic Games, and that it was a decent piece of equipment. He did however have concerns regarding the proposed location at TECC; being worried about the drift of facilities towards the village centre, leaving Broughton and Astley Wards with a great deal of new development with only facilities for the very young. He considered that land at Devitt Way or Pickering Road would be more suitable for the Adizone. This land was more visible to the public and therefore might inhibit anti-social behaviour. He would support the funding bid if there was a commitment from other authorities to assist with on-going insurance and maintenance costs. He felt that there was an oversubscription of the football and basketball facilities on the existing multi-use games area and considered these elements would be very well used.

Councillor Stell

Councillor Stell said that she would echo all that Councillor Bannister had said, particularly with regard to the TECC site, which was very dark and would not be likely to be used by older people. She did like the facilities provided by the Adizone, but would support the spread of facilities around to other areas of the village.

Councillor Grafton-Reed

Councillor Grafton-Reed said that he did not support the funding bid. He considered that it was a poor use of funding and did not offer value for money, as some elements duplicated what was already in place and would not be used. The proposed site was not appropriate, and there was greater need elsewhere in the village. The bid would deplete Section 106 funds and does not address the identified need for formal open space or dry indoor facilities. He considered that the issue should be broken down in to two elements; 1. the location of the equipment and 2 how this should be considered along with other longer term plans for better facilities. He was concerned that the use of the Section 106 funding would prevent the Parish Council providing a long term solution once the LDF is determined. Planning should be for the long term 10-15 years ahead.

Councillor Porter

Councillor Porter said that there was a real need for formal sports pitches, and he was concerned that the Parish Council should be in a position to pursue longer term needs once the LDF is completed. The construction of the facility would only help a limited amount of people.

Councillor Golding

Councillor Golding observed that there would still be a pot of around £65,000 in the Section 106 funds should the Parish Council support the bid for the Adizone. Now that there is not likely to be significant development in the village, the existing Section 106 monies will not increase. He said he would support the bid if the Adizone were to be constructed on HDC land, and then maintained at their expense as the Parish Council does not have the financial or staffing resources to take on such a commitment. He felt that although it would be a 'flagship' for the village he was not convinced that it was needed or that the facility would be used by older people. He added that if the Parish Council does not support the bid, it should look at other facilities for children/young people but be aware that £75,000 would not buy a great deal of equipment if purchased separately as opposed to that which would be incorporated within the Adizone. He also reminded Members that Section 106 funding did not belong to the Parish Council, but was meant for community use to offset any gap in facilities which result of housing

development.

Councillor Evans

Councillor Evans said that the Adizone prospectus specified that the equipment should be centrally located near to existing facilities. This is not ideal for Broughton Astley, as we need to spread the facilities throughout the village. He also said he had concerns regarding the alternative location, as there were previous problems with anti-social behaviour with the bus stop and shops in Devitt Way.

Councillor Brown

Councillor Brown considered that £75,000 was a great deal of money to spend on a piece of equipment which would appeal to a limited age group.

Councillor Whiffin

Councillor Whiffin said that in Astley Ward he had received a number of 'grumbles' from residents about the lack of facilities. He considered that this was a difficult issue and that the Parish Council could be open to criticism which ever way it decides.

Councillor Rowe

Councillor Rowe said he had concerns about the type of equipment provided by the facility; that if the Gym equipment were not used correctly and cause injuries, the Parish Council might be liable.

The Chairman invited County Councillor Liquorish to comment on the proposal.

Councillor Liquorish reiterated that in his view £75,000 does not buy much in the way of sports equipment; but there is a need for more facilities and agreed that installation of equipment at more appropriate sites should be pursued.

Following the discussion the Chairman asked that proposals should be put forward; in favour and against the support of the bid for the Adizone.

**OPTION 1 - IN FAVOUR OF THE SUPPORT OF THE BID FOR THE ADIZONE
COUNCILLOR BANNISTER PROPOSED:**

That the Parish Council supports the application for the provision of an Adizone in Broughton Astley at a location in the vicinity of Pickering Road or Devitt Way on open space owned by Harborough District Council subject to all appropriate consultation and consents. Furthermore Harborough District Council should be responsible for all costs including maintenance and insurance.

**OPTION 2 - AGAINST THE SUPPORT OF THE BID FOR THE ADIZONE
COUNCILLOR GRAFTON-REED PROPOSED:**

That the Parish Council should not support the bid for the Adizone; but move forward to secure the purchase of a more suitable piece of equipment in a more appropriate location in Astley or Broughton Ward.

VOTE

The chairman asked for a show of hands on the proposals. The result was:

OPTION 1 – 2 VOTES

OPTION 2 – 5 VOTES

993 **RESOLVED:**

That the Parish Council should not support the bid for the Adizone; but move

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forward to secure the purchase of a more suitable piece of equipment in a more appropriate location in Astley or Broughton Ward.

Following the vote the Chairman proposed that a small short-term working party of 4-5 Members should be convened at the next Parish Council meeting in order to secure the purchase of more suitable equipment in a location in Astley or Broughton Ward.

994 **RESOLVED:**
That a small short-term working party of 4-5 Members should be convened at the next Parish Council meeting in order to secure the purchase of amore suitable equipment in a location in Astley or Broughton Ward. Members were asked to consider their willingness to be part of this working party.

995 **PUBLIC FORUM**
The Chairman suspended the normal business of the Council at 8.11 pm and opened the Public Forum. No members of the public were present.

The Public Forum closed at 8.12pm

996 **OTHER MATTERS**
No other matters were raised.

997 **MEMBERS' MOTIONS FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**
None received.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Minutes approved and accepted as correct

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Chairman

Dated