

CHESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD AT 7.30PM ON 30 JULY 2018

Present: Parish Cllr Steve Bailey (Chairman)
Parish Cllr Chris Brealy, vice Chairman
Parish Cllr Anne Loder
Parish Cllr Tricia Chapman
Parish Cllr Lorraine East
Parish Cllr Chris Ellis
Amanda Sparkes, Clerk to the Council

54. **CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

Cllr Bailey welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that this extra meeting was purely to consider the tenders for the replacement outdoor gym equipment. The replacement is the parish council taking care of its existing provision. Cllr Bailey commented that the decision on which package to award had to be considered the best option for the residents of Chestfield.

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Cllr Bob Todd (work commitment); Parish Cllr Pat Gibson (family commitment) and Parish Cllr David Fitzpatrick (family commitment).

55. **MEMBERS' INTERESTS** – There were no declarations of interest.

56. **ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING** – There were no residents present so there was no adjournment. The meeting continued.

57. **Chestfield Play Park, Chestfield Road - *Play Area Upgrade***

The Clerk gave an update on the refurbishment of the Chestfield Road play area by CCC who have issued the following press release: "Canterbury City Council is sorry to announce a delay to the start of work on the refurbishment of the play area at Chestfield. This is due to the contractor experiencing rare supply issues with the new equipment. The CCC Press Officer says, "It's the first time this has happened on one of our play area revamps, and unfortunately means it will not take place before the summer holidays. The current play area will therefore stay open during the holidays."

Work is now expected to start in September and will be completed later in October."

This means that the outdoor gym replacement may tie in with the CCC upgrade too.

58. **Outdoor Gym equipment replacement**

The Minute No 51 of the full parish council meeting held on 9 July RESOLVED:

The outdoor gym equipment is at the end of its life with one item now obsolete and unrepairable. CCC has said there are no objections to the outdoor gym equipment being replaced by the parish council provided it is of a standard similar to the outgoing equipment and meets all necessary EU standards etc. And provided the maintenance of the equipment remains the same as before (the parish council pays £180 six-monthly for inspections by serco and repairs are covered in that arrangement).

CCC officers would also like to be involved in the process in terms of giving feedback on the quoted choices as CCC has a duty of care that any equipment on their land is of approved standards.

At the 9 July 2018 parish council meeting all councillors were in favour that the Clerk obtain three quotes for a full replacement set of outdoor gym equipment with six new items.

Cllr Bailey had also agreed to speak to medical practitioners.

Cllr Bailey explained that he had now spoken to both doctors surgeries, who are very happy to promote the outdoor gym as part of a fitness regime and will signpost villagers to it. The doctors favour a cardio-vascular offering.

Cllr Bailey explained that he had also spoken to members of the Stroke Society and physio department at Great Ormonds Street Hospital. Their comments were that it is good to have a

variety of equipment. They also particularly liked the packages with the “apps” for mobile phones to scan, for people to challenge themselves and see details of their work outs.

So Cllr Bailey commented that the outdoor gym project has been medically endorsed and all options should be considered:

59. **Options**

The Clerk had put together FIVE OPTIONS / PACKAGES to discuss. The pack and supporting information had been sent to all councillors several days beforehand. The removal and disposal of the existing old equipment has been factored into the quotes.

The Clerk explained that she had also met with the relevant CCC Officer who has also scrutinised the options presented and given CCC comments where relevant to assist in the parish council’s final decision. These were written in the information given to councillors.

From a durability point of view, a pad under all of the equipment will be much better (CCC prefer a pad). The pad is better for drainage (and this is a wet site). CCC also commented that the new play area will be bonded rubber mulch so an option with a pad will link better. The pad also makes it looked like a planned area.

The CCC officer also commented that as there is going to be a totally new play area – that a totally different gym equipment offering may work better too?

The options offered varying pieces of equipment – some items are double units – so increasing the total number of possible users – and some equipment offers different activities. Two of the options however offered duplicate items so these were less of an offering.

The inclusive wheelchair accessible handbike was considered a big plus – Cllrs felt that an inclusive item for a wheel chair user was very important.

Cllr also felt that the options with a Mobile Phone app/download were most preferable.

Cllr Bob Todd, not present at the meeting, had studied the information and made some written notes and his own scoring/evaluation. This information had been copied and was shared with all councillors at the meeting and was useful. However, as he was not present, Cllr Todd did not have a vote.

Unique to one of the tenders (from the company Proludic) is a “Piston Resistance” – a hydraulic weight altering device where the weights can be altered on the equipment – and can be set on one of eight settings ranging from 5kg to 60kg. Whilst this is very much like an indoor gym and could be considered a plus point, and help increase a user’s fitness and perhaps make the gym more inclusive, Cllrs were divided on whether it may be off-putting to some people, who may feel self-conscious and struggle to adjust weights, and whether there could be a risk of damage to users trying to lift above a suitable weight for them. The managing director of the company had replied to the Clerk’s questions around this feature which had answered the concerns.

60. **DECISION**

Of the five options there were two stand out options. Cllrs discussed these again. Cllr Ellis proposed and Cllr East seconded and all councillors indicated with a show of hands that they were in favour that The Great Outdoor Gym Company be awarded the tender.

The Clerk will place the order; advise the unsuccessful companies; and also advise CCC.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed:

Chairman Date