

PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

An Extraordinary meeting of Pulborough Parish Council was held at the Sports Pavilion, Rectory Close on Thursday 10 March 2005 at 8.00 PM.

Present:

Mrs C Barnett (Chairman)	Mrs J Botting
Mr J Denison	Mr M Longridge
Mr N Ryan	Mr B Vincent
Mr D Boulton	Mr L Ampstead
Mr M Foster	Mrs H Grey
Mrs H Black	

In Attendance Miss S Clark (reporter for The County Times)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs A Lawson

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr Boulton and Mr Vincent declared interests in Pulborough Sports & Social Club as Chairman and Treasurer of the club respectively.

3 COUSINS WAY RECREATION FIELD

The Full Council were asked to consider a recommendation from the Planning & Service Committee that the Parish Council sign an options agreement with developers Castle Lloyd Limited, for the purchase of the Cousins Way Recreation Field. This would be subject to contract, to planning consent and the acquisition of an alternative playing field in consideration of the payment of some £2.5 million for the acquisition of an alternative playing field and the redevelopment of the sports pavilion.

Mrs Hompstead outlined the proposal tabled by Castle Lloyd Ltd and reported that the developer was insisting that the Parish Council enter into an options agreement before any further details were to be made available.

Mrs Botting and the Chairmen of each committee had met with Mr S Brett, an independent planning advisor to ask for his recommendations. Mr Brett advised that although the offer was a very generous one that it could be improved upon.

He also recommended that the Parish Council should endeavour to get the Cousins Way Recreation Field included in the Site Specific Allocations of the Local Development Framework.

If this were achieved then the next steps could include:

An independent market of the valuation of the site should be obtained.

Public Consultation regarding the future use of the site.

Mr Ampstead asked for clarification on what the intentions of the council were? The Full Council were asked to the vote whether the Cousins Way Recreation Field should be included in the LDF Site Specific Allocations at this time or not. The Council agreed that it should, with one against the motion and one abstention.

Mr Denison was not convinced that there was an alternative area to replace the Cousins Way Recreation Field.

Mr Ampstead stresses that if the area was included in the LDF, then no further action should be taken without considerable public consultation.

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Mrs Grey expressed concern that should any capital be received by the parish council that they must ensure that it was 'tied-up' so that it could not be used by Horsham District Council for any other project.

Mrs Hompstead stressed the need for the council to be more proactive and that they have a duty to maximise opportunities for the village.

The Full Council then voted on whether to sign the option agreement with Castle Lloyd Limited. It was decided to reject the offer unanimously.

The Full Council agreed that a letter should be sent to Castle Lloyd Limited thanking them for their interest, but at this stage no offers were being accepted.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.30PM

..... Chairman

..... Date