

**OLD CATTON PARISH COUNCIL,
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 8.00 P.M.,
ON MONDAY 9TH JUNE, AT THE PAVILION, CHURCH STREET**

PRESENT: Mrs G Masdin - Chairman
Mr F Colbridge Mr S Dunn Mr C Green
Mr K Leggett Mr D Little Mrs P Mattocks
Mrs A Riches Mr B Sabberton-Coe
Mr R Streeter Mr M Vincent Miss P Wilkin

APOLOGIES: Mr D Thompson

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the Meeting.

297. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was AGREED to exclude the press and public.

298. CATTON PARK

The Chairman suggested that the meeting should agree on a unified response to the questionnaire about Catton Park to help the Consultant to the Steering Group with the local knowledge that the Council had. It was AGREED that the questionnaire would be used as the basis for the discussion. Members could reply to the questionnaire, as individuals, on matters they had personal views about.

298.1. Question 1. It was noted that the land was private and therefore not all members used it. It was known that some residents used the Park with Mr Buxton's consent.

298.2. Question 4. Access. It was AGREED that the main entrance should be in Oak Lane, with a car park inside the gates. Although the Council would prefer there to be only one access it was noted that there would potentially be a need for additional pedestrian only accesses. The Council would wish to be consulted about this. There was concern about indiscriminate parking by people using the Park.

298.3. Question 5. Activities. It was noted that motor cycles had been known to use the park, this activity was felt to be very undesirable.

298.4. Question 6. Favoured uses. Informal recreational use was preferred. There was some concern about the safety of people using the park and a secure environment was desirable.

298.5. Question 7. Elements of restoration. The following were favoured –
Restoration of grazing in central area
Informal planting
Low key car parking
Fencing was considered to be very important to safeguard neighbouring gardens.

298.6. Questions 8 and 9. Buildings or structures. Toilets, accommodation for staff and machinery and educational facilities were discussed but concern was

expressed about the cost of maintenance of such buildings. For the time being it was felt that buildings should not be planned, however, this would be reconsidered when the use was known.

298.7. Questions 11 and 12. Events. These were not considered to be appropriate, especially as there were already facilities at the Recreation Grounds and Village Hall. It was felt that such events would not be appropriate in the historical setting of the Park.

298.8. Questions 13, 14, 15. Warden. A warden, of some kind, would be desirable, especially to lock the gates at night. The use would determine the need for a warden. It was thought that, if possible, the warden should live in the Gatehouse, if it were available.

299. OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO THE CATTON PARK SCHEME

299.1. Future consultation. Mr K Leggett confirmed that the Parish Council, as one of the stakeholders, would be consulted about the preferred option proposed by the Consultant and accepted by the Steering Group.

299.2. Funding. There was a serious concern about where funding for maintenance would be found. It was not felt that the Parish Council could take responsibility.

299.3. The Deer Park. Members were concerned about the future of the Deer Park, as it would not be a part of the scheme. The owner had not applied to build on any part of the Deer Park or for the Local Plan to be changed to allow development, although he had objected to it continuing with its present designation for potential public access. The Deer Park would continue to be protected by other policies. The Local Plan would not be completed for some time but it was hoped that the Catton Park scheme would be approved in the near future, therefore there was no reason to suppose that the Catton Park project would be linked in any way to development of the Deer Park.

299.4. Catton Park. It was felt that the present scheme for Catton Park would be the best way to guard against any future possibility of building there.

(Mr K Leggett and Mr M Vincent left the meeting)

300. SUPPORT FOR THE STEERING GROUP

It was unanimously AGREED that the Council supported the Steering Group in its efforts to bring Catton Park into public use.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everybody for attending, and closed the meeting at 9.54 p.m.

Chairman, 24.07.2003