

Minutes of the meeting of the Open Spaces Committee of St Erth Parish Council held on Wednesday 19 December 2018 in The Vestry Rooms, Fore Street, St Erth, commencing at 7.00pm.

Councillors present: K. J. Buzza, E. B. Jenkin, N. Player and E. T. Taylor.

Others present: Peter Rylett (Clerk to the Council).

Apologies for absence: Councillor Jenkin stated that Councillor Rodda would be late.

OS 1/18-19 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

OS 2/18-19 Appointment of Chairman

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Taylor be appointed Chairman and there being no other nominations, the Committee

RESOLVED – that Councillor Taylor be appointed Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee for the remainder of the 2018-19 municipal year.

OS 3/18-19 Appointment of Vice-Chairman

The Committee agreed that it did not require a Vice-Chairman.

OS 4/18-19 Declarations of Interest

None.

OS 5/18-19 Consideration of potential projects

The Committee considered general background information provided by Cornwall Council about S106 Agreements and how they were used to provide developer contributions towards open space projects; and specific information which related to the agreement for St Erth.

It was noted that *“these contributions can be used towards the cost of purchasing or converting land into public open space, providing new and existing facilities and meeting increased maintenance costs, in the vicinity of the site that generates the contribution”*. Applicable sites in Parish Council ownership were, therefore, Battery Mill Park and the adjoining land.

Whilst the Committee noted that the St Erth Neighbourhood Plan’s Open Space Assessment had identified an under-provision for teenagers, it expressed the view that it would be preferable to undertake a project which would be inclusive for the whole community, including teenagers, if possible.

With that in mind, Councillor Buzza suggested that the Well Field was: ideally suited for community use and events; that it had, until the recent death of its owners, been made available by them for that purpose; and met all of the criteria for the use of the S106 Agreement funding.

The Committee supported that view and also discussed the opportunity and challenges posed by undertaking a similar project on the land at Battery Mill and the potential costs depending on the condition of the soil etc.

Following discussion, the Committee

RESOLVED – that:

1. the Clerk writes to the Estate of the former owners of the Well Field to express the Council’s interest in acquiring the site for community use; and
2. the Committee meets again to consider the response received and the next steps.

(During discussion of the potential development of the land at Battery Mill Lane, the Committee asked the Clerk to arrange for a health and safety inspection to be undertaken of the roundabout at the park and to seek quotes to resurface the basketball court.)

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.45pm

Chairman.....

Date.....