**THESE ARE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT THE CHICHESTER FAMILY CHURCH, ORCHARD STREET, CHICHESTER ON THURSDAY 12TH NOVEMBER, 2015.**

The purpose of this meeting was to share ideas for the field management, use and enjoyment: create a new friends group and to support it; and to consider if it would benefit from a new name.

Mr. Tim Rooth (Chairman of the Orchard Street and Old Somerstown residents association) opened the meeting at 7.30 p.m.

Also present were Mrs. Paula Chatfield (Parklands Residents Association and Mr. Colin Hicks Secretary of the Westgate Residents Association.

**APOLOGIES.**

Apologies were received from;-

Rodney Duggua Clerk at CCC

Peter Roberts Property Manager CCC

Charlotte Cave (Mercers)

PCSO Karen Hopewell

Cllr Trevor Tupper (CCC South Ward)

Vhari McEwen (Parklands Road)

Cllr Anne Scicluna (CCC South Ward)

John Templeton (Old Somerstown)

Janet and David Tregear (Henty Gardens)

Des Evans (Tannery Close)

Philip and Sue Bargery (St, Bartholomew’s Close)

Paul Wreyford (hawthorn close)

The meeting opened at 7.30 p.m. Mr. Tim Rooth enlightened the meeting by telling the local residents about the history of the open space. Tim introduced Mrs. Claire Apel and Ms Louise Goldsmith. He then said:-

How the park should be used.

The name of the park.

How it is managed.

Set up a steering group and ask anyone to help with this.

Funds are difficult to obtain, so ideas for this.

**THE HISTORY OF THE FIELD**

The CCC has taken on the park, with a 25 year lease from WSCC. The park is 1.13 hectares or 2.8 acres in size. The field belonged to Henty and Constable and was used for dray horses.

Cricket and football was played on it too. It was then sold to WSCC and the school took it over as a playing field. It was a myth that it was given to WSCC. The Record office and a car park were then built on it as it was surplus to educational requirements. In the 1990’s there was a project to protect the land from being developed for housing. In 2007 the District Council put in a draft for housing on the land. The County council have offered a 25 year lease; with the strength of local support and the CCC have been persuaded to lease it with a 15 year break clause. Either party can implement the break clause. The lease runs until December 2029, so it is use it or lose it. We need to establish a Friends Group to keep it open.

Mrs. Paula Chatfield passed around to the public, maps showing the area of the field that was being discussed and leased. The land can only be used for public use. No camping on it or allotments. The land can be accessed via the records office car park. There is a service access for tractors to get in to cut the grass and do maintenance of the trees. This has to be arranged with the school. The City Council are to look after the dog poo bins and the rubbish bins on the site. They also have to look after the grass and the hedges and trees. The lease allows them to put up notices etc. but no alterations can be done without prior consent.

The public were then asked if they had any suggestions or questions.

Mr. John Eccles.

John asked if the CCC will look after the dog and rubbish bins and if we can erect benches for people to sit on.

Mrs. Paula Chatfield told him that they are obliged to clean the site clean and tidy, that they have funds for mowing but no funds for benches, just funds for the bare maintenance.

Mrs. Louise Goldsmith.

Louise said that they had had several meetings in Mr. Tim Rooth’s house. The CCC does not accept transfer of funds for what the residents need for the site.

Mrs. Claire Apel.

When you have two organizations, which come together, there are grants for funding.

Mr. John Eccles.

It needs to be kept tidy and the boundaries need to be looked after. His house backs onto it.

Mr. Colin Hicks.

Asked the residents how the field should be used.

A gentleman from The Maltings stood up and asked where the access to the site would be?

Mr. Tim Rooth

There will only be one access and two potential ones through Henty Close or Hawthorn close.

Four houses are being constructed already, where the old school canteen used to be, so no access there. Has anyone an opinion on this?

Mr. John Miller.

This means both accesses will need to cross other peoples land?

Mrs. Diana Symes.

Mrs. Symes said that she lives in Henty Close and would be happy with this.

Mr. Peter Harding.

How would the emergency vehicles enter the site?

Mr. Thomas Savage.

Mr. Savage asked would there be a children’s play park there? The other play parks in the area are always so overcrowded, as there are not many of them. Could it be made of natural hard wood and he said that he had brought along a sketch of how it could look if it was a permanent structure. Sketches are of previous parks.

Mrs. Paula Chatfield.

School children do not use this field at present, as there are no facilities there. It would be nice to have exercise facilities like they have on Bognor seafront.

Mr. John Lesley.

John thinks that the school should be asked what their opinion is for the site.

Mr. Richard Bird.

Richard does not think that it would be used by children very much because of no access, but it would be nice to see them use it.

Mr. Ian Baker.

Ian suggested that the field is used for a football pitch for under 18’s as there are not many football pitches in this area.

Also, if there is vandalism on the site, who would be responsible for sorting it out and the security of the park.

Mrs. Paula Chatfield.

There is nothing in the plans about security of the site.

Mrs. Claire Apel.

Claire agreed that there is a shortage of football pitches in the area.

Mr. David Hyland.

There is always a demand for football and cricket pitches and we may be able to get funding for this.

Mr. Geoffrey Thompson.

Geoffrey lives in Parklands Road and asked how the emergency services would access the field. Also the maintenance service entrance is accessed by double gates, so is this viable?

Mrs. Louise Goldsmith.

Fire engines do have very long hose pipes, so this should be O.K.

Mr. Thomas Savage

Could a perimeter path for walks around the site be put there, as people will walk across the middle and this would wear out the grass and make the site look messy? The trees that are behind the Record Office belong to them. Could there be benches and a wild flower garden be put there too.

Mr. John Eccles.

The trees that back onto Parklands Road need maintaining as some have grown into each other. Students from the college have parties out there and they are smoking goodness knows what, swearing, drinking and lighting bonfires. This has been going on for 3 to 4 years. No-one can see them as they are behind the trees. On September 4th the police were called and moved the students on for anti-social behaviour.

Mrs. Louise Goldsmith and Mrs. Claire Apel said that they went to The Chichester College about this problem and that it abated for a while. The college needs to know that it is now happening again.

Rhiannon from Hawthorn Close.

Perhaps the students themselves might have ideas for the site. Had anyone approached the college re this?

Ms. Georgina Reece-Watters.

Georgina said that she works at the college and she will take these ideas back to them. She was not aware of the problems. Young people need to be encouraged to use outdoor spaces in the right way.

Mrs. Paula Chatfield.

Paula asked the residents to say how they would like the sign posts to be worded to show access to the site. People pass the Records office every day, but do not know the site is there.

Mr. Tim Rooth.

Now we need a name for the field. When Tim moved to Orchard Street in the 1960’s the park was known as The School Playing field. The traditional name for it was Brewery Fields. It could now be called Henty Field, Orchard Community Field or any other suggestion???

A Friends Group (Steering Group).

The CCC wants the field supported by a friends or steering group are there any volunteers for this.

Several residents put their hands up. Mr. Tim Rooth said he would take their names at the end of the meeting. A friends group is a voluntary group of people to do general maintenance, protect the heritage of the site and fund raise for the site. Has the site wild life value? We need to bring people together for social life and events, the residents, the school and the public in general. We need to bring local people together. They would have a say on the site and what it could be used for. You would have fresh air, keep fit in the open spaces and walks. We now need volunteers for this.

Mrs. Paula Chatfield passed out forms and pens for volunteers to be in the steering group. Six residents volunteered.

Mr. Colin Hicks closed the meeting at 8.55 p.m. and Mrs. Paula Chatfield collected donations for the funds.