NEWBOLD VERDON PLAYING FIELD SCHEME DISCUSSED

NEWBOLD VERDON'S proposed Playing Field scheme with its football and cricket pitches as well as children's recreational facilities will not be as expensive to parishioners as was once thought, it was pointed out at a "frank discussion" at Newbold Verdon, on Monday.

The discussion took place when members of Newbold Verdon Parish Council met members of the Newbold Verdon Sports Development Committee regarding the future of the village playing field.

Councillor J. H. Mensley presided.

Invited to give the Development Committee's view, its chairman, Mr. C. Goddard said the idea was to get together to see how the Playing Field could be developed.

Frank Discussion

Mr. Frank Johnson said he was going to say, quite frankly, if there was someone on the one side or other who was not interested in the Playing Field then it was time they "got off."

Mr. Mensley pointed out he could not allow any resolution, or motion, from the meeting as the matter had already been discussed with the proposals rejected by a parish meeting. But he was prepared to allow a frank discussion.

At a parish meeting held earlier this year a resolution to to seek a loan of £1,500 for Playing Field Development was rejected by a large majority of those present.

Mr. Goddard suggested that all concerned should get together to see what could be done, and to work out an amicable scheme.

The original scheme, he pointed out, if developed in "bits and pieces" would not be eligible for grants.

Athletic Meeting

The scheme provided for senior and junior football pitches, a pavilion, a new cricket square, two children's playing corners with two bay swings, four see-saws and a giant slide.

The treasurer, Mr. Harold Wilkinson, pointed out that so far as the original scheme was concerned, the committee hoped by various grants, loans, gifts and what money could be raised by efforts including an athletic and sports meeting, in August, that £1,200 would be raised.

Saying that they were anxious that the Playing Field should become a credit to the village, Mr. Wilkinson said that the original quotation for a proposed lay - out was £1,100, and the Pavilion would cost around £350 making a total of about £1,450.

Replying to the Chairman, Mr. Wilkinson said that they had about £191 in the bank at present.

When the question of loans was raised, Mr. Frank Johnson said he felt that it was unfortunate that interest re-payment was as high as six per cent or six and a half per cent.

"We can borrow from a Playing Field Fund at three per cent", said Mr. J. Towers, "or at least could until a few days ago."

Mr. Wilkinson: "I think we should jointly consider what we can spend. The longer the scheme is in abeyance the more it will cost."

But, he emphasised, the reason that the Development Committee had not put the whole of the plan before the parish council earlier was because of the need for a complete plan in order to obtain grants.

Mr. Mensley said he doubted if the village would support a heavy expenditure and said he would not like to ask for a loan of £1,200. He pointed out his concern was that the committee had only got £191 towards a £1,200 scheme.

Mr. Wilkinson said it was hoped to raise a fair sum of money at the August Athletic and Sports Day effort.

He added that up to recently fifty per cent grants had been made available towards youth projects.

It was agreed that the matter be further considered by the parish council.

May Get Loans

Councillor Walter Preston, commented that he thought parishioners were dead against the scheme originally because they thought it would mean a 7d. or 8d. rate increase.

Mr. Johnson said he was perfectly prepared to move at a future parish council meeting that his previous resolution should be rescinded and he said he did not wish the meeting to conclude without some appreciation being expressed to those who had tidied up the playing field, and cut the grass making it decent for the children.

Mr. H. Wilkinson: "We may raise the money without going to the parish. We may get more loans. "But 'back us up' at the August Athletic meeting and we will raise what we can."

Tourist Trophy competition

MEMBERS of Coalville Wheelers Cycling Club paid their annual visit to Berkshire at the weekend to watch the Blue Riband of cycle racing, the Bath Road Club 100-mile time-trial.

A total of 220 miles was covered on the run.

Leading positions in the Tourist Trophy competition are now as follows:

1, *N. Pearson* (104); 2, *D. Bloor* (82); 3, *G. Dring* (76); 4, *J. Watson* (72); 5, *N. Johnson* (66); 6, *F. Page* (61); 7, *M. Godson* (60); 8, *K. Neal* (56); 9, *G. Smith* (43); 10, *M. Heward* (39).

The only racing member to take part in holiday sport was Geoff Dring who rode in the veteran 50 miles championship at Nottingham.

He recorded a time of 2 hours, 28 minutes, 33 seconds in extremely windy conditions.

Sunday's touring run is to Belvoir Castle, leaving from Coalville Clock Tower (9 a.m.).

CHARNWOOD C.T.C.

The Charnwood Section of the C.T.C. have organised a run to Blythfield Reservoir (Staffs.) for members, on Sunday.

The run will start from Coalville (9 a.m.) and Ashby (9.30 a.m.). Lunch will be taken at Abbots Bromley and tea at Alrewas.

Leader will be J. Spencer.