Wednesday 1962 Feb 21st Parish Meeting

ROW FLARES OVER PLAYING FIELD SCHEME

THERE were stormy exchanges at a public meeting held at Newbold Verdon last night to discuss the provision of amenities on the village playing field.

The meeting, called by the Parish Council at the request of certain parish councillors, lasted over two hours.

Eventually, a recommendation was made that certain facilities should be provided on the playing field, as suggested by the Playing Field Development Committee.

The chairman, Councillor J. H. Mensley, said this recommendation would go before the parish council.

Mr. Charles Goddard, a parish councillor who is chairman of the Playing Field Development Committee, said they did not wish to put a penny on the rates.

A Disgrace

During the meeting the chairman had to continually remind those present that the parish council had recently decided by six votes to three that the playing field should be developed for children under 16 years of age.

Mr. Clarence Thompson said the Playing Field Development Committee must realise that the parish council were only trying to carry out the wishes of the public.

He said the playing field had always been recognised as a children's playing field but the parish council had never refused the football and cricket teams the right to play on it.

He added that while he was a member of the parish council he would not go against the will of the people, and later when he said "We have unity in the village at present he was greeted with cries of "No".

Mrs. E. Simms said the playing field was a disgrace, and there were no facilities for children.

Bitter Argument

Parish councillor Mr. Frank Johnson said he was convinced that certain people did not wish to see the playing field developed.

Before the meeting ended there was a bitter argument between parish councillor Mr. Brian Hill, who is a member of the Playing Field Development Committee, and the chairman.

Mr. Hill said he doubted if there was any future in having further meetings with the Jarish Council on the matter.

He said he would give notice of resolution for a parish meeting.

At one stage Mr. Hill moved a vote of no confidence in the chairman, who replied: "I and the clerk have considered resigning for some time. Ift the parish council at anv time want my resignation they can have it."

Mr. Hill: "I have not the slightest criticism of the clerk."



Already in the saddle at the age of five months is Louise Kershaw, who is pictured being safely supported by her mother, 27-year-old Joan Kershaw, one of Britain's top women cyclists. Joan, who lives at Huyton, near Liverpool, has been out of competition cycling for more than a year due to Louise's arrival. But now she is back in training for an attempt on the top cycling honours.

Floods: MPs Stand In Silence

THE West German Bundestag (Lower House) stood in silence today in memory of victims of last week end's North Sea floods so far known to have taken 283 lives.

The Vice-President of the Bundestag thanked rescuers and relief workers, who included British, Danish, Dutch, Belgian and U.S. Servicemen, for th "superhuman efforts."

SPORTS DEL SNUBBED BY THE COUNCIL

SEVEN representatives of Newbold Verdon Playing Fields Development Committee went along to last night's Parish Council meeting.

But when the subject of playing fields was reached, the council asked them to leave. It was discussed in committee for 20 minutes.

The outcome was that a parish meeting will be called for March 27 to consider the raising of a loan of not more than £1,500.

This is to be spent on a sports pavilion, football pitches and swings on the playing field.

Safe In Church

Referring to a safe in St. James' Parish Church, Mr. J. H. Mensley said it had been repaired at a cost of £3 by the Church Council. It belonged to the parish council which had a legal right to leave property in church.

The clerk is to write to the Rector of Newbold Verdon pointing out that the safe is parish property and that there was no need for the Parochial Church Council to repair it. He was instructed to claim the safe on behalf of the parish council.

Concern was expressed that fields in Desford Road and a number of ditches were still flooded. The chairman said that there was danger of an epidemic if there was a spell of hot weather.

An Inspection

Mr. Michael Preston, owner of the flooded fields said he had been wrongly blamed by a certain local authority about the flooded fields and ditches.

He told the parish council that the Ministry of Agriculture was sending a representative to inspect the fields this week.

Mr. Frank Hill said the matter should be taken up again immediately with the County Council. This was agreed.

When the question of providing litter bins was raised Councillor Walter J. Preston said he had pressed for them at the Market Bosworth Rural District Council meeting. The clerk stated that bins were on order.

March 19th 1962

NEWBOLD VERDON PARISH COUNCILLOR RESIGNS

After handing in his resignation and being asked to reconsider his decision, Newbold Verdon parish councillor, Clarence Thompson, left the council meeting a few minutes before its close. And as he rose from his seat he handed back his resignation to the chairman (Mr Michael Preston) saying: "You may as well accept it."

It was another sequel to the divergence of opinion on the future of the village playing field.

A happier development was the decision of the council's clerk, Mr John Potts, to continue in office. He too had resigned when the council chairman (Mr J. H. Mensley) gave up the chair following a "no confidence" motion at a parish meeting.

Mr Thompson's departure from the meeting followed clashes in which he, Mr Mensley and Mr F. Johnson were concerned.

When the council considered the recommendations made by last week's extraordinary parish meeting, which concerned the future development of the village playing field, Councillor Walter J. Preston said that the four resolutions had all been carried. He could not see why anyone should object, and he was going to move the resolution of acceptance. He then formally moved the acceptance, and Mr Frank Johnson seconded.

WHOLE COUNCIL SHOULD RESIGN

This prompted Mr C. Thompson to move an amendment that the whole of the parish council should resign, and go to the village for a mandate. Mr Thompson said this was the only way to test public opinion.

Mr Johnson, in seconding that the recommendation be accepted, said they had to bear in mind that the resolutions reflected public opinion, and there had also been good work by the Playing Field Development Committee.

Mr Johnson added: "If we turn down these recommendations, we shall have the playing field in a worse state than it was before. We must accept the rescinding of a minute of the previous meeting."

Mr Johnson was referring to a minute whereby the playing field could only be developed for schoolchildren. This was rescinded at the parish meeting on Tuesday of last week.

Mr Thompson referred at length to an extraordinary meeting of the parish council which, he alleged, was "unconstitutional". He said the meeting had not been called by the parish council.

Mr Brian Hill said that Mr Thompson was wrong. The meeting had been called at the request of a number of parish councillors.

After further discussion about the validity of certain meetings Mr Frank Johnson remarked that he was surprised that Mr Thompson was not present at the extraordinary meeting held last week.

After further argument, Mr Johnson said that one meeting became "a parish brawl".

He suggested that because Mr Thompson was on the losing side he wanted to persuade parish councillors to resign their seats.

"For Mr Thompson to say we should resign, is to my mind wrong," said Mr Johnson.

Mr Johnson said that at a meeting some time ago, he himself had referred to the matter of the playing field in certain terms. "I said it was getting curiouser and curiouser. It is no longer curious. We now know the full facts. Mr Thompson is against the proposals."

"IT STINKS"

Mr Johnson then went on to refer to red herrings. "I am amazed there are still some red herrings — it stinks," he continued.

Mr Thompson: "I know Mr Johnson tries to be personal. I do not. I did try to get to the meeting last week but could not do so."

Mr Johnson: "The meeting was called quite constitutionally by three parish councillors."

Councillor J. H. Mensley: "Mr Thompson has a point. I would not go all the way with him, but I will say this: I hope this is a challenge to the village."

After a verbal brush between Mr Mensley and Mr Johnson, Councillor W. J. Preston then intervened to bring the meeting back to the subject. He said: "The people who attended the extraordinary parish meeting last week were for the playing field development scheme as agreed. Those who were not, and chose to stay at home and see television, have only themselves to blame."

Mr Thompson then said it was impossible to put on the four acre playing field what was planned, referring apparently to proposed amenities.

The chairman: "It is six acres."

Mr Thompson later said he wanted to make sure the public knew what they were doing. The chairman: "There were nearly forty people at the last meeting, and sixty at the one previous."

Mr Thompson: "This council has still to make a decision, and it is the first time that I have known a minority who have gone to a majority and got a two to one opinion.

Mr Thompson continued: "The meeting stinks, it hides behind prevarication and provocation." Later he said: "I am on the parish council on principle. I am prepared to go to the public." He also said he felt that other Councillors might also be prepared to resign.

TWO LARGE VOLUMES

At this stage Mr Thompson indicated two large volumes beside him. "It is all here, in these books," he said. Mr Thompson then pressed his amendment to the resolution.

The amendment was "That this parish council resign and go to the public for a poll," and Councillor J. H. Mensley said: "I will be happy to second that amendment," adding "It will be lost."

It was, by five votes to three. Voting for the amendment, Messrs Thompson, Mensley and M .Dilks. Against, Messrs W. J. Preston, F. Johnson, T. H. Starbuck, B. Hill, C. Goddard.

Mr Thompson handed in his resignation saying: "I said take it back to the public. If the public were agreed to the decision of the meeting I would accept it."

The chairman: "I think Mr Thompson should consider there are other things affecting this council besides the playing field.

Councillor W. J. Preston (to Mr Thompson): "Reconsider your decision, there is no need to resign."

Eventually Mr Thompson accepted back his notice of resignation, but before the rest of the meeting concluded he handed it to the chairman, saying: "You may as well accept it, I am going now. Good night," and he left the meeting.

NEW CHAIRMAN HAS MEETING OVER IN 15 MINUTES

March 13th 1962

Mr Michael Preston, the new chairman of Newbold Parish Council, presided at his first parish meeting on Tuesday night and had the business completed in 15 minutes.

Thirty-seven parishioners turned up and dealt speedily with four resolutions.

These were as follows:—

That the minutes passed at the parish meeting of 22nd day of March, 1961, namely, that all future development of the Playing Field to the benefit of children up to the age of 16 years, be rescinded; nonetheless to maintain that the needs of children must be borne in mind as a major consideration in any future development.

That there is an urgent need to have erected children's playground equipment as soon as practicable.

That it is in the interests of the village, and that it is the wish of the meeting, to accept the gift of a pavilion from the Sports Club, and their offer of full maintenance and full cover of all expenses incurred by the Pavilion.

That it is the wish of the meeting that a pathway all round the field be provided, hedges put, and kept in order, more seats provided, and that a concrete outdoor draught board be provided for old people.

Councillor J. H. Mensley (who recently resigned from the chairmanship of the Parish Council after a motion of no confidence had been put at a parish meeting) said that the second minute (referring to provision of children's playground equipment) was superflous, the parish council were always anxious that something be provided on the playing field for the children.

Councillor Walter J. Preston: "I move that it be carried out."

Mr F. Johnson: "I second that."

It was agreed and Chairman Preston declared: "Carried unanimously."

Councillor Mensley also said that item four, the proposition regarding the provision of a footpath, hedges, etc., had also been passed by the Parish Council. "This too, is superfluous," he added.

Mr F. Johnson: "It is not so. It was turned down by the chairman and some parish councillors."

Councillor Mensley: "Perhaps you can ask the chairman to check this?"

The clerk: "I have not got the Parish Council minute book with me."

Following the voting, Mr M. Argyle enquired: "What is the next step?"

The clerk: "The recommendations will be placed before the parish council."

'Let's Be Friendly' Plea At Council Meeting

MR. CLARENCE THOMPSON made an appeal at last ni annual meeting of Newbold Verdon Parish Co members "to show a spirit of friendliness" after de previous 12 months as the worst he had experi council.

He said that while he understood members having differences of opinion, he felt that they should start the New Year with a clean slate.

Another member, Mr. Frank Johnson, said he was amazed by Mr. Thompson's remarks. "W have differed, but outside

Newbold Verdon Chairman Told:

'WE HAVE NO CONFIDENCE IN YOU'

Feb 21st 1962

Newbold Verdon, the village which is in the throes of controversy over whether or not it should develop its playing field, had another meeting on Wednesday night. Fifty-five people crowded into the local school and before the somewhat heated meeting had run its 2-hour course there was a resolution of "no confidence" in the man who presided—Councillor J. H. Mensley, who is chairman of the Parish Council and a Newbold Verdon representative on Bosworth RDC.

The resolution came from another parish councillor, Mr Brian Hill. He had previously commented: "There is no future in holding further meetings with the Parish Council on this matter.

Mr Hill told the chairman: "I will move a resolution you cannot refuse — that this meeting has no confidence in you."

Mr Frank Johnson: "I'll second that.

The clerk: You cannot do that, it is against the law.

The motion was never put to the meeting. Instead Mr Mensley commented that if the Parish Council ever wanted his resignation they could have it — which was obviously quite another matter.

SEQUEL

Wednesday's parish meeting was the sequel to a whole series of parish council meetings at which recently the councillors finally decided against proposals to develop the village playing field. Instead, voting six in favour and three against they decided to do something to provide facilities for children.

The proposals include basket ball equipment for girls and a concrete cricket pitch for boys, but Mr Goddard, who is chairman of the Playing Field Development Committee, said it was not their wish to put a penny on the rates.

The chairman had repeatedly to remind the meeting of the recommendation of the previous meeting in favour of development of the field for the under 16 children and Mr Thompson said the committee must realise that the parish council was only trying to carry out the wishes of the public. The playing field, he said, had always been recognised as a children's ground, though the parish council had never refused the football or cricket teams the right to play on it.

According to Mr E. M. Simms, the playing field was a disgrace, there were no swings and no facilities for children, he said.

Mr Frank Johnson suggested that certain people did not want to see the field developed. He said there was an ulterior motive somewhere and added that the reason some people did not want it was because they were not running the show.

"I do not think the parishioners have any confidence in the parish council" said Mr C. Talbot, and Mr Goddard added that the development committee had sent them proposals times without number but they could get no satisfaction.

Mr Brian Hill, who is a parish councillor, said the issue seemed to concern the over 16 age limit and though the parish council had been bound by this limit they had not consistently supported it.

CONFLICT OF OPINION

Mr Sumner, who had earlier moved that the proposed facilities be considered by the parish council, said there seemed to be a conflict of opinion on both sides, and Mr J. Gilliver added that there was no unity.

Mr Goddard reminded the members that the meeting had been called at the request of three parishioners — Mr Brian Hill, Mr Frank Johnson and himself, and the chairman concluded by saying that the recommendations would be put before the parish council.

It was then that Mr Hill moved a resolution of no confidence in the chairman, who replied that he and the clerk had both considered resigning, but Mr Hill added that he had not the slightest criticism to make of the clerk.

Newbold Verdon Playing Field

Parish Councillors Meet Development Planners

WILL Newbold Verdon ever get its playing field complete with football and cricket pitches and children's play corners? That is the question following a meeting between the village's Playing Field Development Committee and the Parish Council which took place this week. The Development Committee want to press on with their project. The Parish Council are asking where the money will come from.

VOTED AGAINST IT

A parish meeting has already voted against a £1,500 scheme put forward by the committee and Mr J. H. Mensley, who presided at the joint meeting of the parish council and development committee, ruled right at the outset that because of this vote he could not "accept a motion" from this week's meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to bring the parish councillors and development committee members together to work out a scheme for the playing field which would be acceptable to both bodies and to the village as a whole.

Mr Charles Goddard, chairman of the development committee, warned against piecemeal approach to the scheme. To be eligible for a grant it had to be a complete scheme.

Mr Harold Wilkinson, the committee's treasurer, said their plan had always been for complete development. They visualised providing senior and junior football pitches, a cricket square, two children's play corners equipped with swings, see-saws, a giant slide. In addition they wanted to erect a pavillion and re-align the pathways.

HOPED FOR £1,200

Mr Wilkinson said for this scheme the committee hoped to raise about £1,200. They were originally quoted a price of £1,100 for the lay-out, and with the pavilion at £350, they estimated £1,450 would be required.

In reply to the chairman, he stated they had £191 at present.

Mr J. Towers commented: "We can borrow from a playing field fund at 3 per cent."

Mr Wilkinson suggested they should jointly consider what they could spend. He pointed out that the longer the scheme was in abeyance, the dearer the cost would be.

The chairman: "I doubt whether the village would support a heavy expenditure. I would not like to ask for a loan of £1,200."

Mr Wilkinson said the reason the committee had put the full scheme before the Parish Council (the plan rejected by the parish meeting) was because a firm estimate was necessary before grants could be considered.

"We certainly want to go ahead as far as possible," said Mr Wilkinson, who had earlier pointed out that if the original scheme could not be carried out fully, they should proceed as soon as possible with several of the projects.

Mr Frank Johnson said he felt they should see how far the Education Committee were prepared to meet them.

The chairman: "My concern is that you have got only £191 towards a £1,200 scheme."

GOT £500 GRANT

Mr Wilkinson said that a Barlestone Youth Club recently received a £500 grant. He stressed again the urgency of the matter, pointing out that costs were rising and that up till the recent Government financial restrictions fifty per cent grants had been obtained.

Mr Towers: "I suggest you accept the scheme. I know we are concerned with raising the money but, if need be, I will lend £100 for a start."

After Mr Wilkinson had pointed out it might be possible to raise some money without appealing for financial support from the Parish Council, Coun Walter J. Preston said: "I feel that is why the parishioners were dead against it, they thought it would mean a sevenpenny or eightpenny rate."

Mr Johnson said he was sure that the parish was grateful to those who had tidied up the Playing Field. He was prepared to move that a previous motion moved by himself against the Playing Field Development Committee be rescinded at a future Parish Council meeting.

That ended the discussion and the matter will now go before a meeting of the parish council.

STAPLETON GIRL HURT

Miss Kay Martin (18), Woodlands, Stapleton, was admitted to Leicester Royal Infirmary suffering from loss of memory after an accident on her scooter at Barwell.

She was involved in a collision with a car in High Street Barwell, and was treated at the hospital for cuts to her nose and knees.

Her condition was later said to be "satisfactory."

School Romance

A couple who met while teaching at the same school, Miss Marjorie Geary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Geary, of "Baveno", 83 Kirkby Road, Barwell, and Mr. George Frederick Chadwick, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Chadwick, of Blackpool, were married on Saturday at Barwell Parish Church by the Rev. P. Cryer. The bride teaches English at Alderman Newton's Girls' School, Leicester, and the bridegroom is head of the Mathematics Department at Rushey Mead School.

Given away by her father, the bride wore a dress of ivory satin brocade embossed with a floral design in pastel green and a matching head-dress. Both were made by a school colleague, Miss E. M. Wright. Two bridesmaids, Miss Rita Knight, bride's friend, and Miss Susan Chadwick, bridegroom's cousin, were in attendance. Mr. B. Melding was the best man.

Following the ceremony many of the couple's colleagues in the teaching profession attended the reception at the church institute before the couple left for their honeymoon touring Scotland.

A four year old Hinckley boy, Michael Gordon Herbert, 11 Park Road, was treated at Hinckley and District Hospital on Tuesday night for a cut temple after he was in collision with a van in Park Road.

UNIVER

Hinckley's

