

GROVE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Friday 6th May 2005 at Old Mill Hall, Grove.

Present:

Cllr F D Parnell (chairman)
Cllr W Evans (vice-chairman)
Cllr W R Ackers
Cllr R L Bashford
Cllr K R Clarke
Cllr S Cotton
Cllr A Harker
Cllr K Jones
Cllr A P Lunn
Cllr M Mellersh
Cllr J Nunn-Price
Cllr J M Stock
Cllr B Williamson

In attendance:

County councillor Z Patrick
District councillors D Phillips
Mr H K Brew, Passenger Transport Representative
Mr T Dyer (Free Evangelical Church)
Mrs E Day (Grove Church)
Mr D Jones (Grove Village Hall)
Mr R Hill (Grove Village Hall)
Mr T McManus (St John Vianney RC Church)
Mr B Stovold (Chair East Vale Branch – Wilts & Berks Canal Trust)

19 members of the public.

Clerk:

Mr G M Mundy

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from parish councillors D Hadcroft, P Hadcroft and R Hicks-Greene and district councillors G Stock and P Westwood.

2 Council chairman's report

Cllr Parnell read out his report as per the attached appendix.

Mr Robin Turnbull gave a brief report on the Vitality Working Group.

3 Committee Chairmen's reports

Environmental Services Committee – Cllr Clarke read out his report as per the appendix.

Planning Committee – Cllr Stock read out her report as per the appendix.

Leisure and Recreation Committee – Cllr Ackers read out his report as per the appendix.

4 County and District Councillors reports

County Councillor's Report - County Councillor Patrick read out her report as per the appendix.

District Councillor's Report - District Councillor Phillips read out his report as per the appendix.

Prior to the public forum commencing Cllr W Evans thanked Cllr F Parnell for all of his hard work over the year as council chairman.

5 Public forum

Sports facilities in the village – Mr Paul Walsh asked what plans the village had for sports and what were the

views of the council.

The chairman stated that if 2500 houses were built in Grove then sporting facilities would have to be provided for the increased population. The Vale had already acknowledged the lack of sports pitches in Grove which fall short of the standard expected. The chairman further explained that the parish council are in discussions with the Vale over the development of sports pitches on the Grove and Wantage green belt by the Mably Way health centre.

Mr Walsh asked if the development of houses would mean that the Rugby Club would have to move. The chairman said that the land is owned by Grove Parish council and he did see no reason why they would have to move. The developers had been told not to plan to build houses there. If the developers did receive permission to build houses there then they would have to re-locate the rugby club to new premises like for like.

Mr Walsh further asked regarding the grant application it had made to the Vale. He stated that one of the reasons why the application had failed was because they did not have the support of Grove Parish Council.

The chairman stated that the Rugby Club have always had the full support of the parish council and that the council had supported the application. District councillor D Phillips said that the application from the Rugby Club for £50,000 had been received by the South East Committee but would have wiped out their yearly allowance, this was the reason why the application was deferred to the Vale's Executive Committee.

Mr Walsh further stated that it was a district councillor who had told him that Grove Parish Council did not support the Rugby Club. The chairman stated again that the council always supports the Rugby Club.

Progress on Mary Green funding – Mrs Lunn asked what progress had been made on the funding for play equipment in Mary Green. Cllr R Ackers stated that MAGIC (Mary Green Improvements committee) were making steady progress with half of the money raised to complete the project. MAGIC are considering to undertake part of the project with existing funds, but are still chasing further funding.

Litter problems – Mr Ron Hill enquired regarding the current litter problem and what more can be done. Cllr K Clarke explained that there are two bins in Millbrook Square, one bin by Somerfields which was emptied by Somerfields and one bin by the phone box which was emptied by parish council staff. Cllr K Clarke further explained that the parish council had asked the previous owners of Millbrook Square if it could place a bin by the bus stop. Cllr K Clarke will raise the bin issue at the next Environmental Services Committee meeting to see if the council will approach the new owners of Millbrook Square.

Mr Brian Stovold said that an education campaign should be started through local schools. He said that he had retrieved a three-piece suite from the area of lock on the canal. Cllr K Clarke replied that about three years ago there was a poster campaign and that the campaign should be tried again.

Car parking – Mrs Kirsty Bailey raised the issue of car parking in the turning circle in Mallard Way and that indiscriminate parking was becoming a big problem.

County Councillor Zoe Patrick informed the meeting that OCC had tried to solve the problem in another area of the county but to no avail. She invited Mrs Bailey to take this particular issue up with her after the meeting.

District councillor D Phillips said that this issue would not go away with the on set of the proposed 2500 houses for Grove. The chairman said that this issue will be raised at the Local Plan Inquiry. The parish council would like to see car parking spaces allocated to houses on a ratio of 1 space to one bedroom with a minimum of 2 spaces per house.

Mr Brian Stovold publicly thanked JET for Grove for their donation to renovate the canal path.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Confirmed: 21st June 2005

Chairman _____