

**REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 16th MAY 2006 AT OLD MILL HALL, GROVE**

Present:	Cllr K R Clarke (chairman) Cllr D M Hadcroft (vice-chairman)(part meeting) Cllr R Bashford Cllr S Cotton Cllr W Evans Cllr P L Hadcroft (part meeting) Cllr A Harker Cllr R E Hicks-Greene Cllr A Lunn Cllr F D Parnell Cllr B Williamson
Clerk	Mr G M Mundy

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr K Jones. Belated apologies were received from Cllr J Nunn-Price.

2 Declaration of Personal or Personal and Prejudicial Interests in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Election of Committee Chairman

It was **MOVED** Cllr P Hadcroft **SECONDED** Cllr B Williamson and **RESOLVED** unanimously
“that Cllr K Clarke be re-elected as chairman of the Environmental Services committee for 2006/2007.”

4 Election of Committee Vice-Chairman

It was **MOVED** the chairman **SECONDED** Cllr W Evans and **RESOLVED** unanimously
“that Cllr D Hadcroft be re-elected as vice-chairman of the Environmental Services Committee for 2006/2007.”

5 Sign report of committee meeting held 14th March 2006

It was **MOVED** the chairman and **RESOLVED** unanimously
“that the report be signed as a true record of the meeting.”

The chairman asked and it was agreed by committee to bring forward item 15 of the agenda.

15 Police Matters

The chairman introduced PC Sarah Palmer ABO and PC Darren James and welcomed them to the committee meeting.

PC James introduced himself and PC Palmer and informed the committee of the new Neighbourhood Policing programme which is currently being implemented within the area. PC James said that Grove is to become part of Neighbourhood action Group (NAG) 3 which will incorporate Grove, Wantage, East and West Challow, Letcombe Bassett, Letcombe Regis and Childrey. The composition of NAG will be PS Claire Storry, PC Nigel Eighteen, PC Darren James, PC Sarah Palmer and PCSO Barry Gills. PC James indicated that NAG 3 would be implemented in early 2007.

PC James also briefed the committee that he hopes to implement a Business Watch centred on Grove Technology Park (but also incorporating the shops at Millbrook Square and Savile Way) in the near future, which would hopefully lead to a Neighbourhood Watch being set up in Grove.

PC James stated the he will liaise with the parish clerk over Neighbourhood Watch matters over using the Old Mill Hall as a meeting venue and arranging the display of posters and information etc. Because of its size Grove would have to be broken down into 3 or 4 separate Neighbourhood

Watch areas.

Cllr W Evans asked PC James if he could talk to local schools regarding cycling proficiency and the use of lights and bells. PC James said that he was speaking to local schools shortly and would raise the issue then.

The clerk was asked to find out where the cycle routes were in Grove and pass the information to PC James and Palmer.

On finishing PC James gave the committee an update on crime figures from within the parish of Grove.

The chairman then thanked PC James and PC Palmer for attending.

6 Matters arising from the meeting held on 14th March

Clerk

- a) Item 4 c) – Thames Valley Police – The clerk informed the meeting that a meeting had been arranged with Chief Inspector David Purnell on Wednesday 17th May where a whole range of issues would be discussed. The clerk will produce a briefing note to inform councillors of the discussion.
- b) Item 4 d) – Visit to police control room – Cllr F Parnell informed the committee that councillors R Ackers, A Harker, J Nunn-Price and himself had visited the police control room at Abingdon Police Station and said that the visit was very useful.

7 Election of two representatives on to the Joint Environmental Trust for Grove

It was unanimously agreed that councillors S Cotton and A Harker continue as representatives of the Committee on the Joint Environmental Trust for Grove.

8 Election of a Passenger Transport Representative

The chairman volunteered and it was unanimously agreed that he be the representative for passenger transport.

9 To receive reports from representatives of outside bodies

- a) Independent Advice Centre - The clerk had been informed that there had not been a meeting of the IAC, but there would be an official opening of the new look front office on 7th June.
- b) Wantage, Grove & District Traffic Advisory Committee - Cllr W Evans informed the committee that the next meeting would be next month.
- c) Robert Stiles Almshouses - Cllr S Cotton informed the committee that the next meeting would be on Saturday 20th May.
- d) Grovelands Shoppers Service - Cllr P Hadcroft reported that the shoppers' service was running very well and no problems had been reported.
- e) Vale & Downland Museum Trust - There had been no meeting.
- f) School Governors' Reports -

(i) The Minutes of the Millbrook School Governors meeting held on 30th January were noted.

(ii) Cllr R Hicks-Greene informed the committee that the C of E school had agreed their budget. There is to be a May Fayre starting at 2 pm on Saturday 20th May in the school grounds. There had been no changes to staff.

Cllr R Hicks-Green also informed the committee that the county council have preferred an option of moving North Drive school on to the new development when the first primary school is built. This would allow for money from the sale of the site to be used to enlarge Millbrook School to take in more children.

(iii) Cllr S Cotton said there had been no meeting of governors for Fitzwaryn School.

10 Transport Matters

Correspondence from OCC regarding funding for transport schemes 2006-2011 was noted. Cllr W

Clerk Evans asked the clerk to forward a copy of this letter to the Wantage, Grove and District Traffic Advisory Committee and ask that it be included on the agenda for their next meeting.

11 Health matters

a) Hospital Committee – Cllr B Williamson informed the committee that there will be a “Save Our Hospital” Campaign meeting on Saturday 3rd June.

Clerk b) Cllr F Parnell informed the committee that he had received the petition forms from Wantage Town Council. These were then distributed to councillors by the clerk. The clerk agreed to further distribute them for the collection of signatures to selected retailers etc in Grove.

12 Cemetery issues

a) Sub-Committee – general report – No meeting had taken place

Clerk b) Update regarding damage to the Cemetery Memorial Wall – The clerk informed the meeting that he was still waiting for a reply from Mary Lambe. The clerk was asked to write again to Mary Lambe and inform her that the council is concerned at the lack of progress

9 Highway matters:

The following issues were raised through the chairman:

Clerk a) The clerk was asked to write to OCC regarding the state of the footpath on the Denchworth Road between Wick Green and Westbrook.

Clerk b) Clerk was asked to write to OCC regarding access across on to the pathway in front of the Bay Tree Public House. Access for wheel chairs/pushchairs is inhibited because there is no dropped kerb.

Clerk c) The clerk was asked to find out who owns/responsible for the tree between 5 Sims Gardens and Grove Village Hall.

Clerk d) The clerk was asked to write to Mole Valley Homes and ask them if they would install No Parking signs in the lorry turning point at the rear of the shops.

Clerk e) The clerk was asked to find out the cost of re-surfacing the pathways around Membury way and surrounding areas.

14 JET Matters

Cllr A Harker reported that the trust had approved the full funding of a bench/seat for the Mary Green Play Area. The next JET meeting is on 29th June 2006.

15 Police Matters

Police matters were covered earlier in the meeting.

16 Income/Expenditure Statement for year ending 31st March 2006

This was noted.

17 Correspondence from the Vale of White Horse District Council “Is your council interested in a renewable energy project”

It was agreed that the council does not have a renewable energy project at present but renewable energy projects have been written into the Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance. All new community buildings must incorporate renewable energy.

Clerk The clerk was asked to speak with the hall manager with regard to the supplier of the electricity for Old Mill Hall with a view to changing suppliers.

19 Suggestions for the location of additional dog bins

The following suggestions are to be added to the list:

2 x dog bins on the footpath from the Health Centre to the rear of the allotments at the recreation ground.

1 x dog bin at Mayfield Avenue Green.

1 x dog bin at the end of Cyril Wickham Way/Cane Lane.

Clerk The clerk informed the meeting that he would have to liaise with the county and district councils to seek permission to install bins of their land.

20 Millbrook Square

Clerk a) Fatal incident in Millbrook Square – The chairman informed those who were not aware of the fatal incident involving Mr William Slack of St Ives Road who died on Thursday 13th May following a serious fall in Millbrook Square on Tuesday 11th May 2006. The clerk was asked to write to Mole Valley Homes (owners of the square) and request them to take immediate action to rectify the uneven paving stones on the pedestrian areas. The clerk is also to inform the owners that a series of tripping accidents have occurred in the square over recent years but nothing had been done to rectify the issues. The clerk is also to request that Mole Valley Homes carry out a Risk Assessment of the square with regard to tripping hazards.

Harker b) Litter – Cllr A Harker informed the meeting that he has had a meeting with David Wilson of the Vale regarding the litter problems at Millbrook Square. Mr Wilson informed Cllr A Harker that because of ongoing issues with the Vales own cleaning contractors, he could not see a way of adding Millbrook Square to their contract, and that the parish council would be better off pursuing its own course of action for cleaning the square which would then be presented to the owners for consideration.

Cllr D M and P L Hadcroft left the meeting

21 Acts of Vandalism

Clerk The report of acts of vandalism was noted. Cllr W Evans suggested in future unbreakable/strengthened windows are quoted for.

22 Chairman's urgent communications

All a) The clerk informed all councillors that an invitation had been received from the Grove Free Evangelical Church inviting g them to a Thanksgiving service on Saturday 10th June at 2 pm at St Johns Parish Church followed by a barbeque and family time at Grove C of E school starting at 4.30 pm. Councillors are requested to RSVP by 28th May direct to Margaret Barber.

Clerk b) The clerk read out an OCC news bulletin regarding the provision of secondary schooling. Cllr F Parnell requested a copy of the bulletin to be sent to him.

Clerk c) The clerk is to send a letter of support to the Leader of OCC regarding post office account cards. The clerk is also to write to the Government department responsible expressing concern.

d) The clerk informed the meeting that he had received two copies of the "Parish Council Guide to Environmental Enforcement". A copy was handed to Cllr A Harker, and a copy retained in the council office.

23 General correspondence

The following general correspondence were noted:

- a) – CPRE Spring newsletter.
- b) – Dragonfly Magazine (handed to Cllr R Bashford)
- c) – The Oxfordshire Magazine
- d) – OCC Road Safety News

The meeting closed at 9.36 pm

Confirmed 27th June 2006

Chairman