

**REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 24th JUNE 2008 AT OLD MILL HALL, GROVE**

Present: Cllr J E Nunn-Price (Chairman) Cllr F D Parnell
Cllr A Harker (Vice-Chairman) Cllr C Phillips
Cllr W Evans Cllr B Williamson
Cllr K Jones

In attendance: Sarah Merritt (Thames Valley Police Crime Reduction Officer)

Clerk Mr G M Mundy

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Amys, I Caldicott and P Hadcroft

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

Cllr Williamson declared an interest in item 4 (e).
Cllr Jones declared an interest in item 6 (e).

3 Sign report of committee meeting held 13th May 2008

It was **MOVED** the Chairman and **RESOLVED** unanimously

“that the report be signed as a true record of the meeting.”

4 Police and associated matters

Prior to the start of this item the Chairman informed the committee that PCSO Howard Pack had been assaulted while on duty. The Chairman expressed this committee's concerns and wished Howard a speedy recovery and return to duty.

- (a) Acts of vandalism since the last meeting - There were no reports of vandalism to council property since the last meeting.
- (b) PCSO Howard Pack – Due to the incident mentioned above PCSO Pack was unable to attend the meeting. Sarah Merritt introduced herself to the meeting. Cllr Evans asked how the police were going to help enforce the current bylaw, with regard to dog fouling in Grove, referring to a letter by PC Mark Haynes of February this year.

Sarah Merritt replied that she was not aware of the letter but would find out.

Cllr Jones asked how dog fouling was policed in Wantage and what areas were available for residents use. Sarah Merritt replied that as a responsible dog owner herself she walked her dog at Manor Road, which is a formal park, with segregated children's play areas.

The Chairman raised the issue of children playing ball games on the green in Mably Grove with the possibility of the ball damaging residents' gardens and cars. Sarah Merritt replied that all incidents of this kind should be reported to the police and if able, the police would attend. She added that on tonight's shift there was only one sergeant and two police constables to cover an area from Blewbury to Shrivenham.

- (c) Locality crime figures – Sarah Merritt explained that the locality crime figures were produced for the benefit of the NAG, however she was willing to forward them to the Clerk. She added that the colour coded system is used to show the difference between crime numbers, the peach colour indicated 5-9 crimes in one month and the red colour indicated 10 or more

crimes in one month.

Clerk Sarah Merritt explained that the reason why no violent or drug related crimes were included was because she does not receive that data. Following a discussion on violent and drug related crime figures the Clerk was asked to write to Chief Inspector Littlechild for these figures.

- (d) Correspondence from the Thames Valley Police Authority – An invitation for a Council representative to attend a consultation evening on 21st July had been received. Cllr Evans said that he attended this briefing 3 years ago when the participants were asked to comment on policing issues. He added that the overriding concern was lack of police presence and more police officers were requested, which he commented had not happened.

Clerk The Chairman asked if any member present was able to attend and as no-one was able to do so it was suggested and agreed that the Clerk circulate the correspondence to all councillors. If no councillor could attend the comments were to be forwarded to the Police Authority.

Clerk

- (e) NAG minutes – The NAG minutes were noted. The Clerk was asked to write to the NAG Chairman and inform him that a suggestion had been put forward that two sets of minutes be produced – a full set confidential to the NAG and a non-confidential set for public viewing. The Clerk was also to request that a parish council representative be appointed to NAG.
- Clerk

5 Matters arising from the previous meeting

- (a) Item 7 (c) – Community Policing Awards – The Clerk informed the meeting that the council's nominee for the PCSO of the year award did not win. A full list of winners was available in the office.

- (b) Item 7 (f) – K&R Memorials – The Clerk informed the meeting that the outstanding paperwork from K&R Memorials had now been received. The Clerk asked for approval, which was given, to write to K&R Memorials and explain the procedures for applying for memorials in Grove Cemetery. The Clerk is to inform them that any future breach of procedure would mean they would be barred from Grove Cemetery.
- Clerk

- (c) Item 1 (b) – Bus shelter matters – The Clerk informed the meeting that the application for a Co-op grant had not yet been completed. He also informed the meeting that he was awaiting an answer from Prime Site Media with regard to the bus stop at Millbrook Square.

- (d) Item 13 (b) – Memorial rose bushes – The Clerk informed the meeting that the Assistant Clerk was compiling a list of individually purchased roses with a view to contacting the owners. The Clerk also informed the meeting that the soil test would take place soon.
- Assistant Clerk/
Clerk

- (e) Item 13 (c) – Water trough – The Clerk explained that he had not yet purchased the trough but he would do so in the following month. Cllr Phillips had kindly agreed to install the trough.
- Clerk
Phillips

- (f) Location of the refurbished notice board – Following a short discussion it was agreed that the notice board be located to the right of the village green bus stop (looking from the road).
- Clerk

- (g) Item 16 – BT phone boxes – No reply had yet been received from BT.

6 To receive reports from representatives of outside bodies

- (a) Independent Advice Centre - The report from Cllr Stock was noted.
- (b) Wantage, Grove & District Traffic Advisory Committee - The next meeting

was on Thursday 26th June.

- (c) Robert Stiles Almshouses - No meeting had been held.
- (d) Grovelands Shoppers' Service - The Clerk read out a short note regarding the anticipated shortfall in the shoppers' service account, which could amount to £184. Cllr Hadcroft had previously suggested to the Clerk that an annual grant be given to the shoppers' service to cover any shortfall. Cllr Parnell suggested and it was agreed, that rather than an annual grant, the committee agree in principle to cover any shortfalls in the account.

Clerk

The Chairman said that she was investigating the Octabus service and would bring the information to the next meeting.

Chairman

- (e) Vale & Downland Museum Trust - No meeting had been held.
- (f) Schools governors' reports

(a) – Grove C of E School – Cllr Jones said that no governors meeting had taken place since the last report, however he informed the committee that the OFSTED inspectors were at the school last week.

(b) – Fitzwaryn School – The Chairman reported that there had been no meeting since the last report, however the school came second in the Oxfordshire Consumer Challenge Quiz.

7 JET Matters

Cllr Evans reported that a meeting was held on Thursday 19th June 2008. He informed the committee that the trust would accept the lowest quote for the path to the youth shelter. He added that the Clerk was to forward the quotation for repairs of the village green bus shelter to the Clerk of the Trust for consideration.

Clerk

Clerk

Cllr Evans informed the committee that Cllr Harker was elected Chairman and District Cllr Marchant was elected Vice-Chairman of the Trust.

Cllr Harker enquired about the Letcombe Brook interpretation boards and asked when they would be installed. The Clerk informed the meeting that these had not been installed due to other maintenance work taking place around the village and preparation for the summer six-a-side competition but that the boards would be installed shortly.

Clerk

8 Committee Objectives

The Chairman explained that this would be a regular item during the year in order to monitor progress towards the committee's objectives.

(a) Cemetery wall – The Clerk informed the committee that he has arranged a site meeting with Mary Lambe of the Vale once she returns from holiday.

Clerk

(b) Purchase of bus shelters – The Clerk was asked to chase Prime Site Media regarding their review of the Millbrook Square site.

Clerk

(c) Dog bins – A discussion took place about the frequency of emptying the dog bins. Cllr Parnell informed the committee that the dog walkers have been asked to inform the office of overflowing bins. They have also been asked to suggest further locations to site dog bins. The Clerk was asked to bring forward the list of suggestions for new bins to the next meeting.

Clerk

(d) Clearance of parish council owned footpaths – The Clerk explained that the only footpaths in the parish council's ownership were those that went through and around the Mary Green play area and both were in a state of good repair.

- Clerk (e) Location of footpaths – The Clerk was to request a new definitive map from the County Council that was centred on Grove.
- (f) Survey of residents – It was agreed to defer this item to the next committee meeting. Councillors were asked to bring forward ideas for discussion.
- Clerk (g) Councillor training in environmental issues – It was agreed that the Clerk ask the OALC, county and district councils for details of relevant environmental courses which could be either for councillors or more generally for any interested members of the public.
- (h) Contributing to the environmental aspects of the airfield development – It was generally felt that this was already happening.
- (i) Functioning within the ES budget – It was generally felt that this was already happening.

9 Income and Expenditure to date

The income and expenditure sheet was noted.

10 Correspondence from Mr Parry

Mr Dave Parry, a volunteer litter picker, had written to draw the committee's attention to the large amount of litter by the bus stop opposite Cane Lane, and the state of disrepair of the bus shelter there. Following a short discussion it was generally agreed that the Clerk seek quotations to repair the bus shelter and to purchase a pole mounted litterbin, for consideration at the next Environmental Services Committee meeting.

Clerk

Clerk

The Clerk was to convey the committee's thanks to Mr Parry.

11 Environmental Services Committee invitations to the Annual Council Reception

The committee went through last year's list and added/deleted and amended the list accordingly. The final ratification of the invitation list would take place at the Full Council meeting on 29th July 2008.

12 Chairman's urgent communications

- Clerk (a) The Clerk informed the committee of a forthcoming Vale Community Safety Forum, which was being held on Thursday 3rd July in Wantage Civic Hall from 9.30 am. The Clerk agreed to attend this event on behalf of the council.
- (b) The Chairman reminded those present of the Wantage and Grove Healthcheck consultation taking place on Thursday 17th July from 12-3 pm and 6-8 pm in the St John's Church Rooms.

13 General correspondence

OCC – Road safety news – This was noted.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Confirmed 5th August 2008

Chairman

1206