

**REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 5th AUGUST 2008 AT OLD MILL HALL, GROVE**

Present: Cllr J E Nunn-Price (Chairman) Cllr F D Parnell
Cllr J Amys Cllr C Phillips
Cllr W Evans Cllr B Williamson

Clerk Mrs C J Parry

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors I M J Caldicott, A P Harker, K Jones and P L Hadcroft and from Parish Clerk G M Mundy.

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 Sign report of committee meeting held 24th June 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

(a) Acts of vandalism since the last meeting – There had been two minor acts of vandalism since the last report. Bark had been stripped off a tree in the circle on Kingcup Green and the screens of the youth shelter had been covered in graffiti. Both incidents had been reported the police and were being dealt with by the grounds staff.

It was noted that PCSO Howard Pack had returned to duty and would attend the next Environmental Services Committee meeting.

5 Matters arising from the previous meeting

Clerk

(a) Item 4(c) Letter to Chief Inspector Littlechild – Chief Inspector Littlechild had passed the letter to Inspector Bullivant and the Clerk was asked to seek a response in time for the next meeting.

Clerk

(b) Item 5(b) K&R Memorials – An audit of the cemetery had been carried out during which it was discovered that three headstones had been installed without permission. As two of these were many years old it was generally agreed that the Clerk ascertain who had installed the most recent and contact them to discuss the issue. The Clerk had also been informed that two ‘rogue’ companies were operating in the area.

Clerk

Clerk

(d) Item 5(d) Memorial rose bushes – Only three of the rose beds were in a reasonable condition and therefore it was generally agreed that the Clerk investigate suitable shrubs to be replanted in the other three beds and report back at the next meeting. The Clerk was to write to the owners of those roses that were dead or weak and ask them if they wished to choose an alternative plant as a memorial.

Clerk

(e) Item 5(e) Water trough – Due to a price increase on the previously agreed water trough, it was generally agreed that the Clerk be authorised to purchase a more suitable trough at a slightly increased cost.

- (f) Item 5(g) BT phone boxes – It was reported that the phone box next to the Cornerstone café had been removed. The Clerk was asked to seek feedback via the district council on BT's intentions for the remaining phone boxes in Grove.
Clerk
- (g) Item 7 JET matters – The Clerk was still awaiting a quotation for the repairs to the bus shelter on the village green. The Clerk was to investigate whether the interpretation board located near the Mary Green play area had been installed in the wrong place. It was noted that the board for the village green would be installed following a site meeting with Sally Wallington.
Clerk
Clerk
- The Chairman expressed a wish to receive the minutes of JET meetings. If any other members wished to receive them they were to contact the Clerk.
Clerk
All
- (h) Item 8(b) PrimeSite Media bus shelters – PrimeSite Media had replied that due to the current economic downturn they would not review the Millbrook Square site for at least six months and only then if the council requested it. The Chairman asked that this be brought to the February 2009 meeting.
Clerk
- (i) Item 8(g) Councillor training – The Chairman had viewed the environmental websites that the OALC had suggested. However these courses had not been suitable. She offered to inform the Clerk of more specific topics for courses, which could be included in the budget for next year.
Nunn-Price
Clerk
- (j) Item 10 correspondence from Mr Parry – Quotes for the repairs to the bus stop were still being sought. Mr Parry had been thanked for his input.
Clerk

6 To receive reports from representatives of outside bodies

- (a) Independent Advice Centre - The Chairman gave a report of the recent meeting. It was noted that an invitation to attend the AGM had been sent to all parish councillors.
- (b) Wantage, Grove & District Traffic Advisory Committee - Cllr Evans reported that Cllr J Hannaby was now Chairman with Cllr Stock as Vice-Chairman. It was regrettable that at the last meeting there had been no county council representation.
- (c) Robert Stiles Almshouses - The Clerk was to ascertain the date of the next meeting following which it would be placed on the agenda of future Finance and General Purposes Committees.
Clerk
- (d) Grovelands Shoppers' Service -. The Chairman referred to usage figures for 2007/08 and figures to date and re-iterated that the council would cover any shortfall.
- (e) Vale & Downland Museum Trust - There was no report.
- (f) Schools governors' reports

There were no reports. However the Chairman reported that she and Cllr Parnell had met the new head teacher of Grove CE Primary School during the Health Check consultation event in Grove.

7 Transport Matters

- (a) Review of the Octabus scheme – Grove PC response – It was generally agreed that the Chairman and Cllr Hadcroft liaise to formulate a response to the review. In the meantime Cllrs Amys and Williamson offered to ascertain the viewpoint of local residents and bring their comments to the next meeting.
Nunn-Price/
Hadcroft/
Amys/
Williamson

All (b) Passenger Transport Representatives' meeting – The Chairman reported on the meeting and on the presentation 'Community Transport', which she would pass on to any interested member.

(c) On-going bus shelter issues at Mably Way Health Centre – The Chairman reported that she was arranging a site meeting with county transport planners and Ashley House (owners of the health centre site) and that the suggested location for the bus shelter had to be confirmed by Ashley House. Mr Toms of the county council was looking into the Section 106 money and had agreed, as a temporary measure, to install a flag and timetable case on a lamppost.

The Chairman had contacted Chris Marshall of Thames Travel to replace missing flags by Grove Technology Park, which would be done on 11th August.

Clerk An update on the shelters at Brereton Drive was to be given at the next meeting.

Nunn-Price (d) Correspondence regarding current bus services for Grove – A resident had complained of the lack of evening buses servicing Newlands Drive or Brereton Drive. The Chairman agreed to investigate what evidence was required by the county council to consider extending the bus service and to contact the resident if necessary.

8 Highway matters

(a) Oxfordshire Highways Annual Report

Clerk This was noted. A response would be made when the survey was received.

10 Cemetery issues – report on memorial wall (item taken out of order)

Clerk Nunn-Price The Clerk had met with Mrs Mary Lambe, the district council's Landscape Officer, and had produced a report to members. After discussion it was generally agreed that the matter should be dealt with solely by the Vale of White Horse District Council. The Chairman offered help progress the matter if necessary.

9 Health matters

(a) Hospital Committee – The Chairman reported that a meeting had been held on 24th July 2008 but as yet no minutes had been received. She reported on a presentation by the PCT on the 'Better Deal for Older People' paper and on the new GP- led health centre at Banbury. The PCT speaker said that there were no plans to change anything regarding the Wantage hospital.

It was noted that the name of the Hospital Committee had been changed to the community Health Committee.

All Cllr Phillips enquired whether the Mably Way Health Centre would ever qualify for out of hours opening. The Chairman replied that this unlikely at least until the new development was built, although practices were being encouraged to stagger their opening hours including some late evenings. Members could contact the Chairman if they had any further questions.

(b) 'Health News' publication from Oxfordshire PCT – This was noted.

11 JET matters

There were no matters to discuss.

12 Thames Water's draft Water Resource Management Plan – Grove PC's response

Clerk

Cllr Parnell reported that the district council's recent presentation was extremely convincing and it was generally agreed that Grove Parish Council support the Vale of White Horse District Council in its view that the need for a reservoir has not been proven.

13 Residents' priorities survey – consideration of topics for inclusion this year

Clerk

Several suggestions were put forward including obtaining the villagers' views on the proposed reservoir; lack of evening bus services on Newlands Drive and Brereton Drive; footpaths and transport. The Clerk was to circulate a list of suggestions to committee members for discussion at the next meeting. It was also suggested that a questionnaire, asking residents for their views, could be placed in the Grove Parish Newsletter.

14 Locations for dog waste binsClerk
Nunn-Price

The list of suggested locations was considered. It was generally agreed that the Clerk inform the committee of what funds were available to spend and that the matter be considered further at the next meeting. In the meantime the Chairman offered to meet the Clerk to visit possible sites.

15 Quotations for a pole mounted litterbinClerk/
Nunn-Price

Quotations had been sought for a pole-mounted bin to be installed at the bus stop on Main Street near Laurel Crescent.

It was **MOVED** Cllr Parnell **SECONDED** Cllr Williamson and **AGREED** unanimously

“that the Clerk and Chairman be given delegated authority to purchase a post mounted litter bin up to the value of £100.”

16 Chairman's urgent communications

(a) OCC road maintenance – Footway resurfacing was to take place at Broadmarsh Close in August.

17 General correspondence

There was no general correspondence.

The meeting closed at 9.23 pm

Confirmed 16th September 2008

 Chairman