

**REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD ON 6<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2007 AT OLD MILL HALL, GROVE**

**Present:** Cllr K R Clarke (chairman)  
Cllr D Hadcroft (vice-chairman)  
Cllr W Evans (part meeting)  
Cllr P Hadcroft  
Cllr A Harker  
Cllr F D Parnell

**In attendance:** Barry Gills – (PCSO for Grove & Wantage)

**Clerk:** Mr G M Mundy

**1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from councillors S Cotton, R Hicks-Greene, K Jones, A Lunn, J Nunn-Price and B Williamson.

**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 12<sup>th</sup> December 2006**

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

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

**4 Police Matters**

Clerk a) Acts of vandalism – The report was noted. A copy was passed to Barry Gills. The clerk is to ensure that a copy of the report is e-mailed to PC Darren James.

Clerk b) Minutes from NAG meeting held on 18/1/07 – Cllr D Hadcroft reported that she had been requested by the NAG to obtain the previous 3 months worth of “Acts of Vandalism” reports. The clerk was asked to forward them to her. The clerk was also asked to enquire with John Twaites and ask if he is considering CCTV for Millbrook Square. The clerk was also asked to check the risk assessment John Twaites provided to see if CCTV is mentioned.

*Clerks note: CCTV is not mentioned in the risk assessment John Twaites provided. The clerk has also confirmed with John Twaites that neither he or Tesco are considering installing CCTV.*

Barry Gills c) To consider the purchase of Neighbourhood Watch signs – Barry Gills re-affirmed that request to the parish council to fund or part fund Neighbourhood Watch signs. The chairman then informed the committee that we had obtained advice from other local authorities in the area who had said that their respective councils did not fund Neighbourhood Watch signs, but that this did not mean Grove would not. Cllr W Evans stated that this is a police issue, and did not agree that the parish council could fund them. Cllr F Parnell suggested and it was agreed that the 3 Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators in Grove apply for funding for the signs. Barry Gills agreed to approach the co-ordinators in this respect. It was also agreed that the clerk applies for 50% district council funding for 80 signs. Total cost of 80 signs would be £280 if they were collected by the council staff or £400 if they were delivered.

Clerk d) Correspondence from Chief Inspector David Purnell – The correspondence was noted.

- e) Barry Gills then spoke regarding the new powers granted to him as PCSO; they included the issuing of fixed penalty notices for offences such as graffiti, cycling on footpaths and dog fouling, powers to stop and search and confiscate tobacco and alcohol products, remove abandoned vehicles and carry out road checks.

Clerk The clerk was asked to obtain the up to date figures for PCSO funding by local authorities.

## 5 Matters arising from the meeting

Clerk a) Item 5 a) – Highway Matters – The clerk read out the reply from OCC regarding the Brereton Drive crossing. The clerk was asked to respond, that whilst councillors agreed that an anti skid surfacing has been laid, the central pedestrian point, in their opinion is still not complete.

- b) Item 9 c) – Memorial Safety – The clerk informed the committee that the cost of training council staff in Memorial Safety was approximately £100 per person per course. The course qualification is valid until such time as the Health and Safety regulations change. The cheapest calibration device is £236 (inc VAT). The clerk further reported that is the opinion of the Health and Safety Officer, the council would not have to consider sending staff on courses for another 2 years.

## 6 Reports from representatives of outside bodies

- a) Independent Advice Centre - No report had been received.
- b) Wantage, Grove & District Traffic Advisory Committee – Cllr W Evans reported that the Traffic Advisory Committee will now only meet every 6 months, and that there was no money for future projects. Cllr W Evans further reported that as present no comment had been made from OCC regarding Newlands Drive.
- c) Robert Stiles Almshouses – No recent meeting had taken place.
- d) Groveland’s Shoppers Service – Councillors had previously been sent the report by the assistant clerk. Cllr P Hadcroft suggested and it was agreed that the service of 3 journeys was reduced to 2 journeys a week for a trial period of 6 months.

Clerk The clerk was asked to provide an estimate of costs for the remaining financial year and bring it forward to the next Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting.

- e) Vale & Downland Museum Trust - No report had been received.
- f) School Governors’ Reports – No reports had been received.

## 7 Transport Matters

- a) Correspondence from OCC regarding Parish Transport Representatives – The correspondence was noted. The next meeting is to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2007 in County Hall.
- b) Bus shelters – The suggested locations for new bus shelters from residents of Grove were noted.

## 8 Health matters

- a) Hospital Committee – No meeting had been held.

**9 Cemetery issues**

- Hadcroft
- a) Sub-Committee – general report – No meeting had been held. Cllr D Hadcroft was asked to call a meeting of the sub-committee to conclude all matters outstanding (if any) by the end of this council year.
- b) Update regarding damage to the Cemetery Memorial Wall – There was nothing to report.
- Hadcroft/  
Clerk
- c) Review Cemetery charges – The clerk informed the committee the last review was in 2002. It was suggested by Cllr W Evans and agreed that this matter be considered by the sub-committee and recommendations brought back to the next Environmental Services meeting.

**10 Highway Matters**

- a) Correspondence from OCC regarding Highway Management Arrangements – The correspondence was noted.
- b) Correspondence from OCC regarding Highway Management Arrangements – weed killing – The correspondence was noted.

**11 JET Matters**

- a) Request from JET to install dog waste bin along A338 between Elm Farm and Mably Way roundabout – The clerk reported that he had added this request to the list of suggested locations for new bins.

Following discussion it was agreed that the clerk write to the Grove JET and inform them that this request will be considered in the next financial year. The clerk was also asked to write to Cleanaway (through the district council) and request a report on the usage of the dog bins in Grove. Cllr D Hadcroft reported that the dog bin in Mayfield Avenue had not been emptied since its installation, the clerk said he would report this.

Clerk

**Cllr W Evans left the meeting**

- b) Consider purchase and installation of waste bin on Denchworth Road (opposite Pound Green) – It was agreed that the council maintenance staff monitor this area over the coming months. The clerk was asked to write to Grove JET and inform them of the council's actions.

Clerk

**12 Millbrook Square**

The clerk reported that the notice board and two benches had been removed from the square to make room for additional parking bays. The notice board will be re-located.

**13 Oxfordshire minerals and Waste Development framework**

The document was passed to Cllr A Harker.

**14 Committee response to the Upper Thames Major Resources Development**

It was agreed that all chairman of committees meet following the planning meeting on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February to go through the Thames Water questionnaire. The clerk is to inform chairs of committees and the council vice-chairman.

Clerk

**15 Correspondence from the Leader of OCC regarding Unitary Authorities**

The clerk was asked to respond to the letter as follows: "Grove Parish Council agreed that

working partnerships are enhanced between themselves and county council in order to provide a more efficient service, but are concerned that routine weed clearance from the highway is to cease from March 2007 and also the Traffic Advisory Committees will now only meet every 6 months” and “ because Grove Parish Council is a large council, it had aspiration to assume more responsibility and continue to work in partnership with the county council”.

Clerk

**16 Chairman’s urgent communications**

- a) Grove Parish Newsletter – The clerk was asked to write to David Gayle and request an urgent meeting with him. The following councillors should be in attendance; councillors F Parnell, K Clarke and if possible W Evans.
- b) Correspondence from OCC – Denchworth Road – pedestrian crossing – The correspondence was noted.

Clerk

**17 General correspondence**

The following general correspondence were noted:

- a) CPRE Oxfordshire bulletin – Winter 2006  
b) Dragonfly - Winter 2006  
c) OCC – Home to School Newsletter  
d) ORCC News – Winter 2006

The meeting closed at 9.17 pm

Confirmed 20<sup>th</sup> March 2007

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Chairman