

**GROVE PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD  
ON 11<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2007 AT OLD MILL HALL, GROVE**

- Present:** Cllr F D Parnell (Chairman)  
Cllr W Evans (Vice-Chairman)  
Cllr W R Ackers  
Cllr S Dexter  
Cllr P L Hadcroft  
Cllr C Philips  
Cllr J M Stock  
Cllr H Webb  
Cllr I Woodbridge
- In attendance:** County councillors Z Patrick and J Moley  
District councillor S Marchant  
7 members of public
- Clerk:** Mr G M Mundy

**55     Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from councillors I Caldicott, D Hadcroft and J Nunn-Price.

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

Cllrs Ackers and Dexter declared an interest in item 64 a).  
Cllrs Webb and Woodbridge declared an interest in item 64 b).

**57     Sign minutes of the annual council meeting held 31<sup>st</sup> July 2007**

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

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

**58     Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting**

- a)     Item 42 – Meeting with Grove Scouts – The clerk informed the council that the date for the meeting was 10<sup>th</sup> October 2007. The chairman, vice-chairman and Cllr Ackers had previously agreed to attend. The meeting will take place in the Scout Hut and commence at 8pm.

**59     Questions from the public**

Mr Arnold asked the council regarding the article in the press from Grove JET and said that rather than spend money on decorative planters at the two entrances to Grove, the money should be spent on clearing weeds from footpaths and clearing the road gutters etc. He also said that grass cuttings from mowing near the road was adding to the debris being built up in the drainage system. Mr Arnold also expressed his concerns regarding cars speeding along the Denchworth Road and suggested speed restriction signs are painted on the roads.

The chairman responded and said that the weeds on the footpath are an area of concern and that Grove Parish Council are trying to get them cleared. He also said that OCC cut their weed clearance budget for this year but it was hoped that it would be re-instated next year. With regards to the signs painted on the road, the chairman said that he thought that there was an issue with this but would ask the Traffic Advisory Committee to take this up at the next meeting

**60 Presentation from the Wantage Arts Centre Campaign**

The chairman then introduced Mr McLatchie of the Wantage Arts Centre Campaign who gave a short presentation on the current status of the Arts Centre.

Concluding, the chairman thanked Mr McLatchie for his informative talk.

**61 County and district councillors' reports**

- a) County Council report – County councillor Patrick read out her verbal report. A written report is attached as per appendix.
- b) District council report – District councillor Marchant read out her verbal report. A written report is attached as per appendix.

**62 Local Plan**

- a) Current issues – The chairman said that a more complete brief will be given on 25<sup>th</sup> September at the special Full Council meeting following the Community Park Workshop which is to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> September. The chairman also said that a Development Forum meeting would be held on 26<sup>th</sup> September. He then informed the council that he had received a re-draft of the Southern Access Road and asked councillors for their comments to be sent to the clerk.

All

**63 Council Chairman's Communications**

- a) Acknowledgement from the Vale & Downland Museum Trust – This was noted.
- b) Acknowledgement from the Wantage, Grove & District Twinning Association – This was noted.
- c) Report of the Examination in Public for the South East Plan – This was noted.
- d) Report from the chairman on the visit of Cllr Mayhew-Archer – The chairman reported that he and Cllr Ackers attended the visit of Cllr Julie Mayhew-Archer on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2007. A tour of Grove took place, which included Mary Green, Village Green and the Recreation Ground.
- e) Mably Way pitches – The chairman informed councillors that the Vale have indicated that because the Southern Access Road will not now be going across the rear of the Health Centre, they will programme the sports pitches into their programme of works in next year. The parish council is seeking assurance that the pitches could be made ready for September 2008.
- f) Working in Partnership Function – Cllr Mellersh agreed to attend on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September.
- g) Annual Town & Council Planning Evening – Cllr Harker agreed to attend on 9<sup>th</sup> October.

Clerk

Mellersh

Harker

**64 Committee Recommendations**

- a) Leisure and Recreation Committee – On the proposition from Cllr Parnell seconded Cllr Dexter and resolved unanimously “to recommend to Full Council that the quotation from Kompan for the refurbishment on the junior area be accepted subject to appropriate negotiation with MaGIC for funding.”

Cllr Ackers briefed councillors on funding from MaGIC and a paper was distributed to all councillors. Cllr Ackers said that although Kompan would supply the play equipment, MaGIC would prefer if the installation was carried out by S & C Slatter of Newbury.

It was **MOVED** Cllr Ackers **SECONDED** Cllr Dexter and **RESOLVED** unanimously

**“that the quote from Kompan for the supply of play equipment be accepted and further that S & C Slatter be engaged to install it.”**

Clerk

- b) On the proposition from Cllr Ackers seconded Cllr Evans and resolved 7 in favour 0 against and 1 abstention “to recommend to Full Council that it supports in principle and application for changing facilities from Grove Challengers FC to cope with existing sports provision in Grove.”

Following a short discussion regarding commitments and issues.....

It was **MOVED** Cllr P Hadcroft **SECONDED** the chairman and **RESOLVED** unanimously

**“to accept the recommendation from the Leisure and Recreation committee.”**

- c) Finance and General Purposes Committee – On the proposition from the chairman seconded Cllr P Hadcroft and resolved unanimously “to recommend to Full council that the Reserves policy as amended and subject to the internal auditor’s comments be adopted into the council’s financial regulations.”

The Clerk informed the committee that he had spoken to the Internal Auditor and he suggested that Councils’ Reserves could be as high as 50% of the precept received. Following a short discussion....

It was **MOVED** the chairman **SECONDED** Cllr Ackers and **RESOLVED** unanimously

**“to accept the recommendation from the Finance and General Purposes Committee, and set the Councils’ Reserve Target at 33.3% of the precept figure.”**

**65 Balance sheet for council accounts as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007**

The chairman signed the Balance Sheet.

**66 Small Accounts sheet (as amended) 2006/2007**

It was generally agreed to bring this item to the next Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting.

**67 Remembrance Day**

It was **MOVED** the chairman **SECONDED** Cllr P Hadcroft and **RESOLVED** unanimously

Clerk **“to purchase a poppy wreath from the Royal British Legion at a cost of £50.00.”**

The chairman explained that the Church service in the parish church starts at 10am and this usually results in the silence being about 10.45. He then asked the council if this would be acceptable as Remembrance Day fell on the Sunday this year. The council's view was that the minute silence should be observed at 11am with the wreath laying just before as normal. The clerk was asked to write to the vicar to inform him of the council’s wishes and see if this was possible. The chairman also explained that a shorter service will take place at approximately 2pm and it was generally agreed to invite the Methodist minister to conduct this service.

Clerk  
Clerk

**68 Wantage and Grove District Health Check SWOT Analysis**

The SWOT analysis was noted.

**69 Wantage Town Council minutes**

The minutes were noted.

**70 Part funding for a memorial seat for the late Cllr R Bashford**

JET had stated that they would like to provide a seat along the path to Mably Way Health Centre by the area of wild flowers, and would the parish council like to contribute towards it.

It was **MOVED** Cllr Dexter **SECONDED** Cllr Stock and **RESOLVED** unanimously

Clerk **“that the parish council contribute 50% of the total value of the seat.”**

**71 Council Objectives**

Parnell/  
Evans Cllr Ackers suggested and it was agreed that the chairman and vice-chairman discuss this matter and bring back to the next council meeting.

**72 Correspondence from the Emergency Planning Officer**

Clerk The correspondence included a list of areas in Grove that were affected by the floods of 20<sup>th</sup> July 2007. It was noted that areas of Station Road, Membury Way and Elswith Close had been omitted from the list. The clerk was asked to reply and inform him of the omissions.

**73 Reports from the following**

- a) Joint Environmental Trust for Grove – The next meeting is to take place on 20<sup>th</sup> September.  
*Clerks note: This meeting was postponed.*
- b) Wantage Joint Economic Forum – The last meeting was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> August and minutes of this have yet to be received.
- c) Fair Trade Village update – Cllr Mellersh informed the council that the next event had been planned for Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November in Old Mill Hall.

**74 Committee reports:**

- a) Report of Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2007 – The report was presented by the chairman.
- b) Report of Planning Committee meetings held on 14<sup>th</sup> August and 4<sup>th</sup> September 2007 - The reports were presented by Cllr J Stock.
- c) Report of Leisure and Recreation Committee meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2007 - The report was presented by Cllr R Ackers.
- d) Report of Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2007 - The report was presented by the vice-chairman.

**75 Accounts for payment as per Appendix**

It was **MOVED** Cllr Stock **SECONDED** Cllr Ackers and **RESOLVED** unanimously

**“that the accounts for the sum of £21,382.31 be adopted.”**

**76 Confidential items**

There were no confidential items for discussion.

The meeting closed at 9.11pm

Confirmed 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2007

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Chairman