

**REPORT OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON 10<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2006 AT OLD MILL HALL, GROVE**

Present: Cllr F D Parnell (Chairman)  
Cllr W Evans (Vice-Chairman)  
Cllr W R Ackers  
Cllr K R Clarke (part meeting)  
Cllr P L Hadcroft  
Cllr A Harker

In attendance: Cllr D M Hadcroft

Clerk Mr G M Mundy

**1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R Hicks-Greene and J Stock.

**2 Declarations of 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 29<sup>th</sup> August 2006**

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

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

**4 Matters arising from the report of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2006**

a) Item 6 a) – Quotations for an access buzzer into Old Mill Hall – The clerk informed the meeting that he had not made any further progress on this issue. The chairman suggested and it was agreed that the clerk contact the Disability Access Officer at the Vale and County Councils.

b) Item 6 b) – Quotations for the hand driers – The clerk informed the committee that he had not made any further progress on this issue.

c) Item 6 c) – Quotations for the repairs to the plumbing in the toilets – The clerk informed the committee that he had tried to obtain two further quotes for the plumbing works but to no avail, one had not answered his calls and the other would not give a quote because of the nature of the job specification.

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

“to accept the original quotation from A J Holding at a cost not to exceed £300.”

*Clerks Note: Because a resolution to spend council money can not be taken under “Matters Arising” the clerk will bring this forward to the next Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting under its own heading on the agenda.*

d) Item 9 – Repairs to the Recreation Ground Car Park – The clerk informed the committee that the repairs should be completed by the end of the week.

**5 Reports from representatives of the following outside bodies**

a) Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – There was nothing to report.

b) Grove Village Hall Management Committee – No report had been received.

- c) Wantage, Grove & District Twinning Association – No reports had been received. The chairman remarked upon the recent civic visit from Mably to Grove and Wantage and said that a full report will be given at the next Full Council meeting.

## 6 Old Mill Hall matters

- a) Cleanliness of the Old Mill Hall interior – The clerk explained that he had received complaints from hall users regarding the cleanliness of the main hall floor, cobwebs around the inside of the rooms and the state of the foyer floor. Cllr D Hadcroft said that the Hall Management Committee do employ a cleaner. Cobwebs that are in high places could not be reached, the foyer floor will not come up clean because it required a protective coating on it. Cllr W Evans remarked that the cobwebs added character to the building

There then followed a discussion regarding applying for grants, Cllrs K Clarke and D Hadcroft both said that they did not think this was applicable in this case because Old Mill Hall was not designated as a village hall. The chairman suggested and it was agreed that the Old Mill Hall Management Committee go around the hall and make a list of all the areas that need attention and then submit the list to the council.

*Clerks Note: The office staff will go around the hall also and present its findings to the council.*

- b) Update on Direct Disability Access (DDA) – From the list which was presented to the committee the following action points are noted:

- Clerk  
Clerk  
Clerk
- Disabled toilet flush to be switched to the opposite side
  - Taps in the disabled toilet to be fixed
  - Renew all tape and paint markings

Clerk  
The chairman suggested and it was agreed that the clerk purchase a doorbell for use in the disabled toilet.

- c) Cllr D Hadcroft said that it had been reported to the Old Mill Hall Management Committee that council staff were using the Old Mill hall wheelie bin to dispose of rubbish and on one occasion the caretaker could not get any rubbish in their bin because it was full. The clerk confirmed that on occasion there was a need to utilise both bins. The clerk also said that members of the public use both bins on an “ad hoc” basis. The clerk informed the committee that when the volunteer litter pickers had collected the rubbish from around the village the bags are centralised in the compound and then placed in both wheelie bins as and when there is space to do so. Following further discussion, it was agreed the clerk investigate the following actions:

- Clerk  
Clerk  
Clerk
- Arrange for the Vale Waste Disposal Team to collect rubbish from the volunteer litter pickers.
  - Enquire with the County Council Waste Disposal if rubbish collected from council owned land can be sent to the waste amenity sites
  - Investigate the costs of an additional wheelie bin for the council.

The clerk recommended that the only way to resolve this problem was to locate the council wheelie bin in the council compound, but this was rejected at this stage by the committee.

- d) Cllr D Hadcroft asked what progress had been made regarding the tree, which is leaning towards the Mervyn J Shaw room side of the hall. The clerk informed the committee that George Reade had been informed and the clerk was awaiting his findings.

- e) **Council Contribution to Old Mill Hall** – Cllr K Clarke requested and it was agreed that the council review its contribution to Old Mill Hall for utility services bills etc. The clerk informed the committee that the previous clerk was always against this because of work the council staff carryout for the hall manager, the clerk further explained that the administration staff opened up the hall first thing in the morning, unlocked all of the rooms, should potential hall users around and secured the hall at the end of their working day. The clerk also said that on occasions he would come in early at the request of the hall manager to open early if hall user required it.

*Clerks note: The clerk would like to remind/inform councillors that the council reclaim the VAT on behalf of Old Mill Hall therefore saving the Hall Management Committee hundreds of pounds a year.*

Clerk *A comparative table of the last three years worth out VAT reclaim will be brought forward to the next meeting.*

Clerk The chairman asked the clerk to draw up a list of all the functions the council staff undertakes for Old Mill Hall in addition to their daily functions.

**7 Millbrook School Car Park**

No meeting had taken place. The clerk was asked to ensure that the car park lights would be left on at half term.

**Cllr K Clarke left the meeting**

**8 Invitation to attend the AGM of the ORCC on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2006**

It was generally agreed to see if the chairman of Environmental Services Committee, Cllr K Clarke could attend.

**9 Health and Safety Officers report**

This was noted.

**10 Chairman's urgent communications**

The chairman informed the meeting that King Alfred's School had placed a notice of intention to convert from their present status to foundation status in the Herald series newspapers. He also said that Wantage Town Council held a Full Council Meeting on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2006 to discuss the issue. The notice gave 4 weeks for members of the public/local authorities to comment/object/support the proposal. The chairman read out the Wantage Town council resolution to object to the proposal; he also suggested and it was agreed that Grove Parish Council write to the Clerk to the Governors and object. Because of the deadline to get the objection in, the clerk was asked to send a memo to all councillors inviting their comments on the suggested wording of the objection. All replies to the clerk or the chairman by midday on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2006.

Clerk  
All

**11 General Correspondence**

There was no general correspondence.

**12 Confidential items**

There were no confidential matters.

The meeting closed at 8.28 pm

Confirmed 21<sup>st</sup> November 2006

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Chairman