

**REPORT OF THE LEISURE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2007 AT OLD MILL HALL, GROVE**

Present: Cllr W R Ackers (Chairman)  
Cllr K Jones (Vice-Chairman)  
Cllr S K Dexter  
Cllr W Evans  
Cllr M Mellersh  
Cllr F D Parnell  
Cllr C Phillips (part meeting)  
Cllr J M Stock  
Cllr H Webb  
Cllr I Woodbridge

In attendance: Mr T McCullough (Chairman of Challengers FC)

Clerk: Mr G M Mundy

**1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from councillors I Caldicott and J E Nunn-Price.

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

Cllrs W Ackers and M Mellersh declared an interest in item 6 b).  
Cllrs Webb and Woodbridge declared an interest in items 7 a) and g).  
Cllr S Dexter declared an interest in items 7 f)

**Cllr Phillips arrived**

**3 Sign report of committee meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2007**

The amendments to the minutes were discussed and agreed as follows:

Item 10 – Committee objectives – Delete third objective – insert new –“to ensure that Leisure and Recreation matters are fully considered in the Grove Airfield Development”.

In the last objective amend to read “ to ensure year on year improvements to the Leisure and Recreation facilities in Grove”.

Re-number last item to 16.

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

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

It was generally agreed to take item 7 g) out of order.

- 7 g) Grove Challengers proposals for temporary changing facilities (item taken out of order)** – The chairman informed the committee that Grove Challengers are proposing to erect temporary facilities on the Recreation Ground between the scout hut and clubs compound. Discussion followed in which Cllr Dexter asked how long the facility would be used and what the Challengers definition of temporary is. He also asked, apart from supporting the planning application, is there any other commitment required of the parish council.

Clerk Cllr Stock asked if planning permission was required for a temporary structure. The clerk was asked to confirm this with the district council and also confirm any associated costs.

The chairman then suspended Standing Orders to allow Mr McCullough to answer the committee’s questions.

Mr McCullough said that once approval is gained the changing facility could be ordered and in position within two weeks, he added that he is constantly reviewing the market to see what is available. He further added that the facility would be dismantled as soon as appropriate facilities are provided through the Airfield Development.

Cllr Parnell said that he is concerned at the visual impact and said that the changing facilities would look like containers.

Mr McCullough said that he was looking at different styles, but the basic look was 3 x 9 metre units bolted together.

Mr McCullough added that Challengers FC did not want anything from the council and that the football club would pay for all costs.

There were no more questions and the chairman re-instated Standing Orders.

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

**“to allow challengers FC, subject to planning approval, to erect temporary changing facilities subject to the correct positioning of the structure to allow grass cutting machinery enough space to pass, must be of a sympathetic colour, and re-instatement of the land once dismantled.”**

The chairman then informed the committee that Challengers FC would endeavour to extend the clubs compound in time with the changing facility.

Clerk The clerk was asked to ascertain if the council held records of underground services within the area.

Mr McCullough thanked the committee for its time and left the meeting.

#### 4 **Matters arising from the report**

Clerk a) Item 6 d) – Footpath to youth shelter – The clerk was asked to obtain quotes for a concrete footpath to the youth shelter.

b) Item 6 a) – Pinch point on Mary Green Play Area gate – The clerk informed the committee that Peter Debbage of Venturplay had been to look at the gate and could see no pinch point.

Clerk The clerk was asked to obtain a quote from S & C Slatter for fencing the Mary Green Play Area.

c) Item 7 b) – Correspondence from GRFC re pitch layout – The clerk informed the committee that he had written to all sports clubs informing them of the committees stance on pitch layout.

d) Item 8 – Mably Way recreational area – This was discussed under item 8 below.

e) Item 9 – Correspondence from Mrs Thropp – The clerk informed the committee that he had accepted a quotation from Neil Portlock to pollard 8 willow trees along Pill Ditch. The clerk has informed Mrs Thropp.

Clerk f) Item 11 – Correspondence from Mr and Mrs Bailey – The clerk informed the committee that he had written to Mr and Mrs Bailey informing them that the council is reviewing the policy on land sales.

g) Item 15 – Memorial bench on the Recreation Ground – The clerk informed the committee that he had made a site visit to the location of the bench and was awaiting confirmation of the order.

#### 5 **Reports from the following outside bodies**

a) Grove RFC Pavilion Management Committee – The minutes from the meeting had previously been distributed to all councillors. The chairman informed the committee that pitch layouts were discussed and that there would be a good chance of compromise between the clubs

Clerk regarding the pitch layouts. The chairman also said that Rangers FC had raised an issue with the hedge adjacent to the pitch. The clerk was asked to speak to head of outdoor staff

- b) Oxfordshire Playing Field Association – No meeting had been held.
- c) Grove Village Hall Management Meeting – 19/9/07 – The minutes of the meeting had previously been distributed and were noted.
- d) Youth Advisory Committee – No meeting had been held.  
Sweatbox union Minutes 01/10/07 – The minutes were noted.

## 6 Items relating to play areas/allotments/open spaces.

- a) Play equipment inspection reports:
  - Summary of councillor reports – The summary was noted.
  - Venturplay report – September and October – The reports were noted.

Clerk The chairman then briefed members on the current state of the Mary Green play area. It was  
Clerk hoped that an official opening ceremony would take place over the weekend of 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> November 2007. The clerk was asked to invite Mr John Twaites to open the play area. The clerk was also asked to inform the local press.

Clerk The clerk informed the committee that the play area could not open until the RoSPA inspection had taken place. The clerk was asked to open the play area as soon as this had been done and the play area was tidied up.

- b) MaGIC update – Cllr Mellersh informed the committee that a donation of £1,000 had been received by MaGIC from the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire.
- c) Correspondence from Mole Valley Commercial regarding Pill Ditch in the Mary Green Play Area – It was generally agreed to allow Mole Valley Commercial to regrade the Pill Ditch and establish a Head wall in the play area. The clerk was asked to inform Mole Valley Commercial accordingly.
- d) Correspondence from Mrs Moran re Millbridge Allotments – It was generally agreed to allow Mrs Moran to clear the land requested and use it to put a shed on. The clerk was asked to write to Mrs Moran and inform her of the committee's decision and also inform her that she would not be charged for this land for the first year of tenancy.

Clerk

Clerk

## 7 Recreation ground/Wasbrough Field issues

- a) Request from Grove Challengers FC to hold its annual six-a-side competition on the weekend of 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> July 2008 – It was generally agreed to allow Challengers FC to hold its annual six-a-side competition over the weekend of 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> July 2008. The clerk is to inform the club accordingly.
- b) Request from Grove Rangers FC to hold their annual six-a-side competition on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July 2008 and use of Wasbrough Field for car parking – It was generally agreed to allow Grove Rangers FC to hold their annual six-a-side competition on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2008. The clerk was asked to write to the landowner of Wasbrough Field and obtain his permission. The clerk is to inform Rangers FC of the committee's decision and actions.
- c) Report and maintenance schedule from Earthsafe Turf Consultants – The clerk summarised the report. The clerk was asked to contact the other authorities and/or clubs to gauge an opinion on the height of the grass on football pitches. The clerk is also to seek advice from the OPFA and the football association.
- d) Quotation received from Avoncrop Amenity Products – The clerk was asked to obtain the costs of grass seed and fertiliser for the last 3 years and produce a competitive table for the next meeting.

Clerk

Clerk  
Clerk

Clerk  
Clerk

Clerk

Clerk It was generally agreed to change the type of fertiliser and incorporate the spreading of  
Clerk fertiliser twice a year. It was also agreed to conduct more aeration of the ground and less heavy rolling. The clerk was asked to check what the heavy roller was filled with.

e) Complaints regarding dog waste on playing fields – Cllr Webb informed the committee that Challengers FC are organising a petition to ask the council to do more to tackle dog waste on the Recreation ground. The clerk was asked to obtain quotes for 5 new signs to be placed at each entrance to the Recreation Ground and Wasbrough Field. The signs are to be no smaller than 2 x 3 feet in size and worded in accordance with OPFA guidelines. The clerk was also asked to write to all clubs and ask if they are prepared to contribute to the cost of the new signs.

Clerk

f) Correspondence from GRFC requesting to site a Biffa waste bin at the clubhouse – It was generally agreed to allow GRFC to site a Biffa waste bin at the clubhouse. The clerk was asked to write to GRFC and inform them accordingly. The clerk is to also inform the GRFC that the council will hold them responsible for ensuring that the area around the bin is kept clean. The bin must be secured to the building and emptied at least once a week.

Clerk

## 8 Mably Way Recreational Area

The chairman informed the committee that this project had moved forward in so much that the Vale will start to develop the land for sports pitches in the spring of 2008 although no drainage will be laid. The clerk was asked to follow up the request to Mary Lambe to hold a meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> December to discuss the provision of sports pitches. The letter is to be copied to the chairman of the district council and district councillor Jenny Hannaby.

## 9 Trees

There was nothing to report.

## 10 Purchase of an Eco-combi shredder/chipper

The chairman briefed the committee on the old truck loader chipper and said that the current machine was not adequate for the work required. There was also a safety issue because the current machine had no automatic cut off switch. The clerk informed the committee that he had sourced a re-conditioned machine that both chips and shreds wood cuttings and hedge trimmings at a greater rate and to a more manageable size. The price of the new machine was £6,950. The trade in price of the current machine was £1,000 leaving a purchase price of the new machine at £5,950.

Cllr Woodbridge said that through his business he was in contact with a shredding company in Manor Road, Wantage and would ask them.

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

Clerk “to recommend to Full Council to purchase a chipper/shredder at a cost not to exceed £6,000.”

*Clerks note: Cllr Woodbridge has informed the clerk that the company in Manor Road deals in larger industrial shredders, and not agricultural shredders.*

## 11 Nomination of a committee member to assist in the review of council policy of selling council land

Cllr Dexter volunteered to assist in policy review.

## 12 Income and Expenditure to date and budget estimate for 2008/09

The income and expenditure to date was noted. After consideration

It was **MOVED** the chairman **SECONDED** Cllr Parnell and **RESOLVED** 9 in favour 0 against and 1 abstention

“to recommend to Full Council to set the initial budget of the Leisure and Recreation Committee at £..... for 2008/09.

**13 Chairman's urgent communications**

- a) Correspondence to allotment holder re allotment plots – The clerk informed the committee that he had written to the tenant of plots 37 and 42 on three separate occasions regarding rent in arrears for the plots. The final letter had given the tenant until 21<sup>st</sup> November to pay the overdue rent or the clerk would instruct the ground staff to remove any crops and structures from the plots and re-allocate them. The committee generally agreed with his course of action. The chairman asked the clerk to contact the Millbridge Allotment Holders Group to see if they had seen the tenant working the plot.

Clerk

- b) Correspondence from Mr Stanaway re maintenance work at Millbridge Allotments – The clerk informed the committee that Mr Stanaway had written to the clerk complaining at the maintenance work to the hedge line at Millbridge Allotments. The clerk informed the committee that the maintenance staff had cut the hedge to a more manageable height and also thinned out all of the dead hedge line. The clerk was asked to respond to Mr Stanaway's letter.

Clerk

**16 General correspondence**

OPFA – Playing Field magazine – Autumn 2007

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm

Confirmed: 8<sup>th</sup> January 2008

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman