

**REPORT OF THE LEISURE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON 14<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2006 AT OLD MILL HALL, GROVE**

Present: Cllr W R Ackers (Chairman)  
Cllr R L Bashford  
Cllr S Cotton  
Cllr W Evans  
Cllr K Jones  
Cllr M Mellersh  
Cllr F D Parnell  
Cllr J M Stock

Clerk: Mrs C J Parry

In attendance: One member of the public

**1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R E Hicks-Greene, A P Lunn, J Nunn-Price and from parish clerk Mr G M Mundy.

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

Cllrs Ackers and Mellersh declared an interest in item 6f) and 6h).

**3 Sign report of committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2006**

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

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

**4 Matters arising from the report**

- a) Item 7 - A response had been sent to Grove Challengers.
- b) Item 10 – A response had been sent to Woodcote Parish Council.
- c) Item 11 – A response was awaited from Mr Garry Kingett.
- d) Item 13 – Still awaiting a demonstration by Lister Wilder.
- e) Item 16 b) – Mrs Brooks had been informed of the council’s position on this matter.

**5 Reports from the following outside bodies**

- a) Grove RFC Pavilion Management Committee – The chairman reported on the meeting which had taken place yesterday evening.
- b) Oxfordshire Playing Field Association – A meeting had been held but the report was yet to be received.
- c) Youth Advisory Committee – There had been no meeting.

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

- a) Play equipment inspection reports

Clerk Summary of councillor reports – A copy of the summary was to be reissued to councillors.

Venturplay reports for December 2005 and January 2006 – The chairman explained that repairs to the gates at Wasbrough Field and the trip hazards at the skatepark were in hand.

Clerk  
Clerk  
There was little option but to retain the loose log at Mary Green so it was to be painted a bright colour to make it more visible. The clerk was to ensure that the contractor highlighted the risk values on the inspection sheets.

- b) Retrospective approval for Venturplay to add the new equipment to their inspection list –

It was **MOVED** Cllr Parnell, **SECONDED** Cllr Stock and **RESOLVED** unanimously

Clerk  
“to give retrospective approval for Venturplay to add the new equipment to their inspection list”.

- c) Quotation for an emergency sign at Westbrook play area

Clerk  
The promised quotation had not arrived and therefore it was generally agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

- d) Update on quotations for lighting the kickabout area

Clerk  
It was generally agreed to progress the current quotation by seeking costs for supplying power to the site in time for the next meeting. It was suggested that local residents should be consulted on the proposed lighting and it was also suggested that Mr Garry Kingett should be involved along with the youths who initially requested the lighting.

- e) Prices for steel basketball nets

Clerk  
The clerk had obtained only one quotation for chain basketball nets at approximately £20. The council already had a large supply of nylon nets and it was generally agreed that these should be used before purchasing any further nets.

- f) Signage for the Mary Green play area

Ackers  
The chairman explained the type of sign he envisaged being placed in the play area. He advised that one sign would be sufficient provided it was placed in the middle of the play area and that it should be approximately 4' x 4' and should display the relevant regulations. The chairman was to progress this matter.

- g) Correspondence from Mrs Capp regarding damage to fencing at Millbridge Allotments

Clerk  
Mrs Capp had reported that dogs and pedestrians were encroaching onto the allotments due to damaged fencing. Council staff were seeking costs for new fencing and the clerk was to write and inform Mrs Capp of the action being taken.

- h) MaGIC update

The chairman reported that the new path to the toddler equipment had been re-laid since it was not satisfactory and that a panel on the toddler frame was to be replaced. All the installation checks had been carried out satisfactorily.

## 7 Recreation ground/Wasbrough Field issues

- a) Request from Grove Challengers to use recreation ground for car boot sale in June – A request had been received to use the recreation ground for a car boot sale for which the chairman had requested a full written proposal. This had not yet been received. Before this matter could be considered further the chairman offered to speak with the club.

Ackers

- b) Correspondence from Grove Challengers regarding an advert in their 6-a-side tournament – The club had invited the parish council to pay for advertising space in their programme. It was generally agreed to decline.

Clerk

- c) Correspondence from Cllr Bashford regarding dog fouling – Cllr Bashford had suggested that differently worded signs to be placed at all the entrances to the playing fields. It was generally agreed to seek costings for this and in the meantime temporary signs were to be produced and displayed.

Clerk  
Clerk

- d) Correspondence from Mr Belcher regarding access problems into Wasbrough Field –Mr Belcher found it difficult to access the field on his buggy due to uneven surfaces and parked cars. The ground staff had already been asked to try and resolve the problem with the uneven surfaces and the clerk was to seek quotations for a no parking sign. In the meantime a temporary sign was to be placed on the main gate, requesting drivers not to park there as disabled access was required at all times.

Clerk

Clerk

The clerk was to write and inform Mr Belcher of the council's actions.

- e) Request from Grove Rangers to use the recreation ground on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July for their annual 6's – It was generally agreed to grant permission for the tournament with the usual conditions to be applied. It was noted that parking provision on Wasbrough Field was not required.
- f) Consideration of a review of pitch and floodlight fees – Following discussion it was **MOVED** the chairman, **SECONDED** Cllr Evans and **RESOLVED** unanimously

Clerk

Clerk

**“that there be no increase in floodlight or pitch fees for a further year”.**

Clerk

The next review would take place in time for the 2007/08 season.

- g) Request from Hebborns Amusements to use Wasbrough Field – Mr Hebborn had requested use of the field from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> May 2006 inclusive. It was generally agreed to permit this subject to the usual conditions and permission of the landowner and at the same fee as last year.
- h) Forecast of events on recreation ground and Wasbrough Field for 2007/08 – The list was noted.
- i) Vertidrainning – The chairman believed that the vertidrainning exercise in the autumn had been beneficial to the pitches and recommended that it should be carried out again in the Spring. To this end the clerk had obtained quotations for both hire and purchase of equipment but members believed the only viable option at present was to hire vertidrainning equipment . It was noted that only two quotations had been received giving weekly rates and these were as follows.

Clerk

Swan Plant Hire Ltd

Terra Spike and tractor	£945 plus VAT
Delivery and collection	£80 plus VAT
Damage repair levied at	£25 per hour plus VAT

Country Grass Ltd (Lincoln)

1.6 vertidrain plus tractor	£500 plus VAT
Delivery and collection	£350 plus VAT

It was **MOVED** Cllr Evans, **SECONDED** Cllr Stock and **RESOLVED** unanimously

**“To accept the quotation from Country Grass Ltd to hire a 1.6m vertidrain and tractor for two weeks at a cost of £500 per week plus VAT with a delivery charge of £350 plus VAT”.**

Clerk

Clerk

It was noted that the council was to arrange adequate insurance cover during the period of hire.

- j) Emergency access to recreation ground – Grove RFC had informed the council that the memorial gates had been opened on January 15<sup>th</sup> to allow an ambulance onto the field.

## 8 Mably Way Recreational Area

There had been no further developments. However it was noted that surveyors acting for the developers had visited Wasbrough Fields.

**9 Trees**

- a) Poplar trees at Dove Green – The clerk explained that the county county’s Forester, Mr Eric Dougliss, had inspected the three poplar trees and had recommended that they be removed since they could be the cause of subsidence problems if allowed to grow to their full height. He also suggested that they be replaced with medium sized trees under the Amenity Tree Planting Scheme, and located further away from the properties,. Therefore it was generally agreed that the poplar trees be removed in the autumn and that the clerk write to local residents explaining the council’s decision with a copy of Mr Dougliss’s report.

Clerk  
Clerk

- b) Quotations for tree works

It was noted that only two quotations had been received for each of the following jobs due to the third contractor having suffered an accident.

- i) Reduction of crown by 20% of horse chestnut adjacent to 12 Fairfield Close –

Ringrose Tree Surgery Ltd	£120 plus VAT
Arborcare	£100 plus VAT

- ii) Reduction of crown by 20% of ash tree adjacent to 95 Sharland Close –

Ringrose Tree Surgery Ltd	£120 plus VAT
Arborcare	£100 plus VAT

It was **MOVED** the chairman, **SECONDED** Cllr Stock and **RESOLVED** unanimously

**“to accept the quotations from Arborcare for the reduction of both trees at a cost of £100 per tree plus VAT”.**

Clerk

**10 Correspondence from Oxfordshire County Council re funding for youth services**

The letter from the Leader of the county council was noted.

**11 Correspondence from the Vale of White Horse District Council re National Lottery Funding**

The letter was noted.

**12 Guest list for council reception in 2006**

Further names were added to the list.

**13 Correspondence from Dr G Patrick re Christmas tree recycling**

Dr Patrick had expressed concern that the parish council had not carried out Christmas tree shredding as it had in the past. The clerk was to thank Dr Patrick for his comments and inform him that the parish council no longer had the facilities to shred trees but would, in conjunction with other councils, try to set up alternative shredding arrangements in time for next year.

Clerk

**14 Chairman’s urgent communications**

There were no urgent communications.

**15 General correspondence**

OPFA – The Playing Field – This was noted.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Confirmed: 28<sup>th</sup> March 2006

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Chairman