

**REPORT OF THE LEISURE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 15th NOVEMBER 2005 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 A P Lunn
Cllr M Mellersh
Cllr J Nunn-Price
Cllr F D Parnell
Cllr J M Stock

In attendance Mr Gary Kingett – Area Youth Worker for Grove and Wantage

Clerk: Mr G Mundy

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr R E Hicks-Greene.

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

Cllr A Lunn declared an interest in item 10. Cllr R Ackers declared an interest in items 7 b) and 7 c). Cllr M Mellersh declared an interest in item 7 b).

3 Presentation by Gary Kingett (Area Youth Worker for Grove and Wantage)

The chairman introduced and welcomed Gary Kingett to the meeting.

Gary Kingett then gave a short presentation to the meeting which included a brief background to his history, his role as a youth worker, a division between two sets of youths in the area, a youth forum and future events/planning etc. Councillors asked various questions about the youth service and the proposed improvements to the youth centre at Grove.

At the end of the presentation the chairman thanked Gary Kingett for attending the meeting and providing an update on youth activities in the area.

4 Sign report of committee meeting held on 4th October 2005

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

5 Matters arising from the report dated 4th October 2005

- a) Item 6 (b) – Summary of councillors reports (Beaufort climber) – The outstanding summary of Cllrs reports was distributed prior to this meeting and presented to the committee.
- b) Item 6 (b) – Signage for new play areas– The clerk informed the meeting that he had obtained advice from Roger Davies of the OPFA with regard to signage at the new play areas. The clerk informed the meeting that Roger Davies had stated that it would be advisory to install signs stating “This play area and equipment is intended for” and then went on to describe particular age groups etc. The chairman then informed the meeting that it would depend on who you spoke to, to determine if signs prescribing the age groups that should use the new equipment were advisable. Care need to be taken not to break any disability discrimination laws.

Clerk

Following general discussion it was agreed to locally produce signs as a temporary measure until properly made signs could be designed and installed.

- c) Item 6 (i) – Open space land at 21 Edington Place – The clerk informed the meeting that he had spoken to Mr & Mrs Walkett who had agreed to reduce the height of the hedge.
- d) Item 7 (a) – Recreation Ground/Wasbrough Field issues – The clerk had brought forward the report from head of outdoor staff to the meeting.
- e) Item 8 – Mably Way Recreational Area – The clerk informed the meeting that a decision to wait until the Local Planning Inquiry Inspectors Report was made by the Leisure and Recreation Department and the Planning Department at the Vale.

6 Reports from the following outside bodies

- a) Grove RFC Pavilion Management Committee – The minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2005 were noted. The chairman then briefly went through the most recent meeting held on 14th November 2005. The following was discussed:
 - Changing room issues – The chairman felt that all the clubs were moving much closer to resolving the changing room issues.
 - GRFC in discussion with RFC over new training pitch lights – GRFC would have to provide indemnity insurance for 10 years to the RFC.
 - Relaying training pitch at a cost of £3000.
- b) Oxfordshire Playing Field Association – The chairman informed the meeting that both he and the vice-chairman had attended the AGM on 25th October 2005, and that various projects were discussed. The OPFA annual report and accounts are in the office for inspection.
- c) Youth Advisory Committee – The chairman informed the meeting that he had just received the minutes from the last YAC meeting and asked the clerk to distribute to councillors. The next meeting is scheduled for 27th February 2005.

Clerk

7 Items relating to play areas/allotments/open spaces.

- a) Play equipment inspection reports
Summary of councillor reports – This was noted.
Venturplay report for September 2005 – The chairman spoke regarding the report. The chairman asked the committee if they thought it would be useful if they all received their own copy of the report. It was generally agreed that they would.
- b) Magic update – The chairman informed the committee that the work on the new play areas had been delayed. The work would now start during the week commencing 21st November 2005.
- c) Correspondence from Mrs Trinder regarding the Youth Shelter at Mary Green Play Area – Following discussion it was agreed the clerk reply to Mrs Trinder's letter and state that the council share her concerns and that the council would forward her letter to the police on her behalf. The clerk is also to inform Mrs Trinder that the play area and area behind the shops is designated as an alcohol free area and any concerns should be addressed to the police in the first instance. Regarding the youth shelter, the council is working with youth services on this issue.
- d) Report of emergency expenditure for play equipment at Mary Green play area – The clerk informed the meeting that following a letter from the council's insurers instructing the council to remove and replace certain items of dangerous play equipment he had incurred expenditure to the sum of £455.70 for replacement play equipment.

Clerk

Clerk

It was **MOVED** Cllr J Nunn-Price **SECONDED** Cllr F Parnell and **RESOLVED** unanimously

“to retrospectively approve expenditure for play equipment to the sum of £455.70.”

- e) Quotation for refurbishment work on the tyre climbing wall – Following discussion it was agreed not to accept the quotation from Crossman Engineering to refurbish the tyre climbing wall. The clerk was asked to write thanking them for their quotation, however in light of the fact that the equipment would be replaced soon it was considered not cost effective.

Clerk

8 Recreation ground/Wasbrough Field issues

- a) The following requests from Grove Challengers were considered:

Litter bins on or near the pitches – The committee’s decision was not to allow litter bins on or near the pitches. The committee felt there were sufficient bins on the edges of the field. It was suggested that the Aasvogel bags used at the sixes tournament this year could be used to compliment the existing bins. They can be easily assembled before games and taken away following games.

Container storage instead of the concrete shed – The committee agreed that this should not be allowed for the following reasons:

Planning permission would have to be gained from the planning authority
Would be unsightly and not in keeping with the surrounding area
Public liability insurance and health and safety issues

Six-a-side competition over the first weekend in July 2006 with car parking on Wasbrough Field -

The committee agreed with this request subject to normal arrangements over parking. The clerk is to seek the permission of Mr Wasbrough for use of his field for parking.

Clerk

Erect a physical barrier across the Cane Lane/Brereton Drive junction – The committee felt that this was a matter for the police and local highway authorities, and therefore could not agree to this request. However the committee are in favour of proper parking management.

Permission for use a mobile refreshments vehicle instead for a gazebo – The clerk is to seek clarification over when this would be used. In the interim a decision was agreed to allow a mobile refreshments vehicle on to the recreation ground for the July 6-a-side competition only. If the request is for every week throughout the season then the council would not allow this.

Clerk

Clerk

The clerk is to write to the Challengers and inform them of the committee’s decisions.

9 Mably Way Recreational Area

There was nothing to report.

10 Trees

The following quotations were considered:

Swift Green – Poplar trees

To remove trees

N E Portlock - £450.00
Ringrose - £675.00
Arbocare - £700.00

To remove trees and grind stumps

N E Portlock - £650.00
Ringrose - £900.00
Arbocare - £900.00

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

“for N E Portlock to remove and grind stumps of the four Poplar trees at a cost of £650.00 plus VAT.”

Clerk

Willow Green – Willow and Ash - To reduce by 30%

N E Portlock - £275.00
 Ringrose - £245.00
 Arbocare - £400.00

It was **MOVED** the chairman **SECONDED** Cllr F Parnell and **RESOLVED** unanimously

Clerk

“for Ringrose Surgery to reduce the willow and ash tree by 30% at a cost of £245.00 plus VAT.”

Rear of Old Mill Close – 5 Willow to be pollarded

N E Portlock - £275.00
 Ringrose - £245.00
 Arbocare - £350.00

It was **MOVED** the chairman **SECONDED** Cllr F Parnell and **RESOLVED** unanimously

Clerk

“for Ringrose Surgery to pollard five Willow trees at a cost of £245.00 plus VAT.”

11 Income and Expenditure to date and budget for 2006/07

It was **MOVED** Cllr W Evans **SECONDED** the chairman and **RESOLVED** unanimously

Clerk

“to recommend to Full Council that the Leisure and Recreation Committee budget for 2006/07 be set at £32,252.”

12 Chairman’s urgent communicationsClerk/
Parnell

- a) Forecast of courses from Premier Soccer – The clerk informed the meeting of the amended dates and new dates for soccer courses. It was generally agreed to accept the dates. The clerk is to forward a copy to Cllr F Parnell for inclusion onto the council web site.

Clerk

- b) Petition for lights at Basket ball court – rear of Bay Tree Public House – The chairman read out the petition requesting lights to be installed at the basketball court received from 8 teenagers. Following discussion it was generally agreed for the clerk to seek costs of installation.

20 General correspondence

OPFA Newsletter – The Playing Field – This was noted.

The meeting closed at 9.22 pm

Confirmed: 3rd January 2006

 Chairman