

**REPORT OF THE LEISURE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 19th FEBRUARY 2008 AT OLD MILL HALL, GROVE**

Present: Cllr W R Ackers (Chairman) Cllr F D Parnell
Cllr S K Dexter Cllr J M Stock
Cllr W Evans Cllr H A Webb (part meeting)
Cllr J E Nunn- Price Cllr I J Woodbridge

In attendance: 1 x member of the public (item 7(d) only)

Clerk: Mr G M Mundy

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from councillors I M J Caldicott, C Phillips and M Mellersh. Belated apologies were received from Cllr K Jones.

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

Cllr S Dexter declared an interest in item 7(e).
Cllr W Evans declared an interest in item 7(b).

3 Sign report of committee meeting held on 8th January 2008

Cllr H Webb arrived

Cllr Stock suggested and it was agreed that the following amendments be made to item 8 in the minutes:

The first sentence should read "The Clerk informed the committee that a meeting had been arranged for the Thursday 17th January with the District Councils Leisure Consultant".

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

"that the minutes as amended be signed as a true record of the meeting"

4 Matters arising from the report

Clerk (a) Item 4(b) – Quotes for fencing the Mary Green Play Area – The clerk informed the committee that no quotes had yet been received. The Clerk was asked to chase this matter up.

(b) Item 10 – Recreation Ground car park -

The Clerk informed the meeting that he had received another quote for patching the car park which was for £1000. This was supplied by Lambourn Surfacing and they had given the Clerk a quote of £4000 to resurface the whole of the car park.

Clerk Cllr Dexter suggested that the Clerk write to GRFC with regard to making a contribution to the cost of the works.

It was **PROPOSED** Cllr Parnell **SECONDED** Cllr Nunn-Price and **RESOLVED** unanimously

"to seek match funding contributions for £2000 from the user sports clubs and the District Council area grants committee for a full area re-surface of the car park".

5 Reports from the following outside bodies

a) Grove RFC Pavilion Management Committee – The minutes of the Pavilion Management Committee meeting held on 9th January 2008 were noted.

- b) Oxfordshire Playing Field Association – No meeting had been held.
- c) Grove Village Hall Management Meeting – The minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2008 were noted.
- d) Youth Advisory Committee – No meeting had been held.

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

- (a) Play equipment inspection reports:
 - (i) Summary of councillor reports – The summary was noted. The following actions are to be carried out:
 - Monitor the carpet around the Crazy Gander and Crazy Motorbike (MGPA)
 - Weed kill the area affected in the Westbrook Play Area
 - Swap bench parts (if possible) with one recently taken from Rec Ground
 - (ii) VenturPlay report (31/01/08) – The reports were noted.

Clerk
Clerk
Clerk

7 Recreation ground/Wasbrough Field issues

- (a) Request from the White Horse Folk Festival to use the Recreation Ground 14th – 17th August 2008 –
It was **MOVED** the chairman **SECONDED** Cllr Nunn-Price and **RESOLVED** unanimously
“to grant permission for the White Horse Folk Festival to use the Recreation Ground during the period 14th – 17th August inclusive subject to the usual conditions.”
- (b) Request from Premier Soccer Ltd for additional use of the Recreation Ground – Cllr Evans took no part in this item.

Clerk

It was **MOVED** the chairman **SECONDED** Cllr Parnell and **RESOLVED** unanimously
“to grant permission for Premier Soccer Ltd to use the Recreation Ground for courses on the dates requested.”

Clerk

Items 7 (e) & (f) were taken out of order

- (e) Notification from the VofWHDC regarding an application for storage facilities at the rear of the GRFC clubhouse – Following a short discussion it was generally agreed that the Clerk is to write to the VofWHDC and inform them that the storage facilities must be only temporary and for a maximum period of 5 years and that an end date must be stipulated to GRFC.
- (f) Correspondence from Grove Rangers FC regarding Grove Challengers FC proposed changing facilities – It was generally agreed that the Clerk reply to the letter from Grove Rangers FC and inform them that none of the goal posts will be stored within the new compound because of restricted space and that their moveable goal posts should be located adjacent to the Rangers pitch. The clerk is also to inform Rangers FC that the gap between the scout hut and the proposed changing facility is 5.5 metres. The Parish Council will undertake to monitor the area for wear and tear.
- (c) Correspondence from Thames Valley Police regarding dog fouling on the Recreation Ground/Wasbrough Field – Following a discussion it was agreed that the Clerk reply to the letter and inform PC Haynes that in the committee’s opinion litter is not generated by the sports clubs, but most likely by casual users of the area, and that the sports clubs generally clean up after their games. The Clerk is also to inform PC Haynes that there is now adequate signage at each entrance to the Recreation Ground and Wasbrough Field and sufficient dog waste bins are provided.

Clerk

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Clerk

The chairman suspended standing orders to allow Mrs Stacey to make a statement to the committee.

‘The problem as I see it is that the majority of dog walkers let their dogs off the lead and allow them to run around the fields and not take any notice of them. The dogs will then toilet the field without the owners having sight of where they have been. By the time the owners have realised, the dog(s) have moved away and the owners can not find the faeces. A solution to this problem would be to create a ban on walking dogs off lead.’

Cllr Parnell asked Mrs Stacey if she had any suggestions as to where dog walkers could go if the Parish Council were to ban dogs completely.

Mrs Stacey replied and said that the area behind the Health Centre could be used as a temporary area or believed that there was a route across the old airfield.

The chairman thanked Mrs Stacey for her comments and reinstated standing orders.

- (d) Dog fouling/dog walkers on the Recreation Ground/Wasbrough Field – Cllr Evans referred to Mrs Stacey’s comments and said that he agreed with her and that the Council could create a dog control order and not allow dogs off leads on the Recreation Ground and Wasbrough Fields.

Cllr Dexter said that the full council resolution was to work towards banning dogs from the recreation ground and Wasbrough field subject to finding an alternative area for dog walkers and resolving any legal issues and to defer the matter to the leisure and recreation committee to propose a viable solution.

Cllr Ackers said that this would be seen as an interim measure and the council would still be working towards banning dogs. Cllr Ackers added that the Clerk had received notification from Mr Wasbrough’s land agents and informed him that Mr Wasbrough would not be happy with a total ban of dogs on his land.

Clerk

It was generally agreed that the Clerk write to Mr Wasbrough and ascertain what is and what is not acceptable on his land with regard to dogs and bans etc.

Cllr Dexter said that the committee should go for the end solution which is to ban dogs from the Recreation Ground and Wasbrough Field. Cllr Nunn-Price disagreed.

Cllr Nunn-Price proposed that the council seek a dog control order that kept dogs on leads and away from the pitch areas.

Other locations were suggested as dog walking areas such as Bosleys Orchard, Rangers football pitch, Plantations on the other side of the A338 and a community orchard is established for dog walkers.

It was **PROPOSED** Cllr Dexter **SECONDED** Cllr Parnell and **RESOLVED** 6 in favour and 2 abstentions

“that the Parish Council consult with dog owners with a view to suggesting other areas where they can take their dogs. In addition to consult with Mr Wasbrough’s representatives to ascertain what he is prepared to allow with regard to the restriction of dogs on his property. Finally the committee should start the process of banning dogs on the Recreation ground and Wasbrough Field.”

8 Mably Way Recreational Area

The Clerk informed the meeting that he had not received a reply to the email that he had sent to Mike McKay at the Vale regarding drainage issues. It was generally agreed that the Clerk write to Mike McKay and inform him that the Parish Council remains happy to take on the maintenance of the sports pitches, but if there is a persistent drainage problem on this area then the District Council will need to rectify the problem.

9 Trees

- (a) Information from the Clerk regarding a meeting with Ms Rachel Horne concerning trees – Following a discussion it was generally agreed that the Clerk write and thank Ms Horne for her time. The Clerk is to inform Ms Horne that the Parish Council has no land suitable for this kind of project and therefore it will not pursuing this matter any further at this stage.

Clerk

10 Renewal of membership of the OPFA

It was **PROPOSED** the chairman **SECONDED** Cllr Nunn-Price and **RESOLVED** unanimously
“to renew membership of the OPFA at a cost of £80.”

Clerk

11 Chairman’s urgent communications

- (a) Correspondence from GRFC requesting use of the Recreation Ground for a Summer Rugby Camp 18 – 22 August 2008 – It was **MOVED** the chairman and **RESOLVED** unanimously

“to allow GRFC use of the Recreation Ground for their Summer Rugby Camp over the period 18th – 22nd August 2008 subject to the usual conditions regarding litter etc provided they restrict the area of use to Rugby Pitch 1 or 2.”

- (b) Correspondence from the Millbridge Allotment Holders Association – The chairman read out the letter and the points were discussed. The Clerk was asked to reply as follows:

- it was the chairman’s understanding that the kissing gate would remain unlocked and would be monitored
- that it was impracticable to inform allotment holders of maintenance work at the allotments and that
- the Parish Council can not (according to its insurer) purchase public liability insurance for its allotment tenants, nor does it wish to act as an agent for the association by collecting premium subscriptions. It was agreed that the Allotments Association should pursue this on its own accord.

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

12 General correspondence

- (a) The Playing Field magazine.

The meeting closed at 8.57 pm

Confirmed: 1st April 2008

Chairman