

**REPORT OF THE LEISURE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON 21<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2007 AT OLD MILL HALL, GROVE**

Present: Cllr W R Ackers (Chairman)  
Cllr S K Dexter  
Cllr W Evans  
Cllr M Mellersh  
Cllr J E Nunn-Price (part meeting)  
Cllr F D Parnell  
Cllr C Phillips

In attendance: One member of the public

Clerk: Mr G M Mundy

**1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from councillors K Jones, J M Stock, H Webb and I Woodbridge.

**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 c).  
Cllrs S Dexter declared an interest in items 5 a), 7 b) and 14 b)

**3 Sign report of committee meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2007**

The chairman informed the meeting that according to minute 7 c) Cllr Phillips had declared an interest when in fact he had not. Therefore his name was deleted from the minute.

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

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

**Cllr Nunn-Price arrived**

**4 Matters arising from the report**

- a) Item 6 c) – Invitation to Sarah Merritt – The clerk informed the meeting that Sarah Merritt had agreed to attend the next committee meeting to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October.
- b) Item 7 b) (i) – Additional pitch on Wasbrough Field – The clerk informed the meeting that he had written to both Grove Challengers FC and Grove Rangers FC.
- c) Item 7 b) (ii) – Pre-season matches and training – the clerk informed the meeting that he had written to all the user sports clubs informing them that they may commence pre-season training and friendly matches with effect from 15<sup>th</sup> August.
- d) Item 7 b) (iii)– Compound fence – The clerk informed the meeting that he had responded to Grove Challengers FC regarding extending the compound fence.
- e) Item 7 c) – Review of pitch and floodlight fees – The clerk informed the meeting that he had notified all clubs of the new pitch and floodlight fees.
- f) Item 11 a) – Conditions of use for Grove Recreation Ground and Wasbrough Field – The clerk informed the meeting that the re-drafted conditions of use had been sent to all user clubs. Certain issues arising will be discussed later in the agenda.
- g) Item 11 b) – Request from Grove Rangers FC to adopt an under 15/16’s team – The clerk had written to Grove Rangers FC to inform them of the council’s decision.
- h) Item 11 c) – Request from Grove RFC for a bottle and can bank – The clerk informed the committee that he had responded with the council’s decision.
- i) Item 11 d) – Grove RFC Mini Rugby Festival – The clerk informed the committee that he had notified Grove RFC of the council’s decision.

## 5 Reports from the following outside bodies

- a) Grove RFC Pavilion Management Committee - The minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2007 were noted.
- b) Oxfordshire Playing Field Association – No meeting had taken place.
- c) Grove Village Hall Management Meeting – Cllr Mellersh stated that following the meeting three weeks ago there was nothing to report.
- d) Youth Advisory Committee – The minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2007 were noted.

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

- a) Play equipment inspection reports:
  - Summary of councillor reports – The summary was noted. The chairman reminded all those who undertake playground inspections to ensure that although the Mary Green play area is closed, the Westbrook play area is open and needs checking. Cllr Phillips suggested and it was generally agreed that a sign be placed on the gates to the Mary Green play area directing users to the other play areas at Westbrook and the former dairy site.
  - Venturplay/RoSPA inspections - The RoSPA inspection report had not yet been received.

All  
Clerk

- b) MaGIC update –the chairman reported that the MaGIC Committee was busy planning fund raising events to take place later in the year.
- c) Report on the effects of the flooding in the Mary Green play area and remedial work required –The clerk distributed a report to all those present at the meeting. The chairman then summarised the report. The clerk informed the meeting that following a conversation with the appointed loss adjuster, he had obtained a further quotation for repairs which would mean that only one contractor would be appointed to carry out the repairs and to supply and install new play equipment in the junior area.

It was generally agreed to defer any further discussion on this matter until after the next item.

- d) Quotations for the refurbishment of the junior play area at the Mary Green play area – The chairman informed the meeting that several quotations had been received from various sources albeit in some cases for different styles of equipment.

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

**“to recommend to full Council that the quotation from Kompan for the refurbishment of the junior area be accepted subject to appropriate negotiations with MaGIC for funding.”**

Clerk

Discussion on item c) continued.

Following the above resolution the clerk was asked to contact the loss adjuster and inform him of the committee’s recommendation.

Clerk

Cllr Parnell then informed the committee that he had received a letter from Ed Vaisey MP who was responding to a letter from Mr D Payne regarding the ditch flooding in the Mary Green play area. Cllr Parnell had notified Ed Vaisey of the council’s policy regarding the ditch.

- e) Allotments Competition 2007 – Cllr Mellersh reported that the winners of the allotments competition had been finalised and prizes would be awarded at the Grove Horticultural Show at 4 pm on 1<sup>st</sup> September at Old Mill Hall. Cllr Parnell agreed to present the prizes.

Parnell

## 7 Recreation ground/Wasbrough Field issues

- a) Further discussion on Scouts’ request to use parts of the recreation ground for their centenary celebrations – The clerk informed the meeting that he had received further information from Grove Scouts regarding their centenary celebrations on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2007. The scouts had indicated that the following activities would take place.
  - Exhibition of scouting photographs, equipment and skills
  - Barbeque
  - Coconut stall
  - Bouncy jousting game

Clerk It was generally agreed to allow the scouts to use the area in front of the scout hut facing the recreation ground. The clerk was also to inform the scouts that under no circumstances were they to use the Rangers pitch.

- b) Correspondence from Grove RFC regarding the pitch and floodlight fees and conditions of use – The chairman explained that the rugby club had raised three issues and Grove Challengers one issue regarding these.

Clerk i) Pitch fees - The clerk was asked to contact Grove RFC's secretary and talk to him personally about the new pitch fees.

ii) Inspection procedure - It was generally agreed that because of the interests of all the users of the facilities, there would be no change made to the pitch inspection procedures.

iii) Dog waste - It was agreed that if evidence came to light of persons allowing their dogs to foul the recreation areas, the committee would seek legal action against the offenders.

iv) Penalties – Discussion took place and the appropriateness of fines and penalties was discussed.

It was **MOVED** Cllr Parnell, **SECONDED** Cllr Phillips and **RESOLVED** 3 in favour, 0 against and 3 abstentions

**“that a fine of £50 be levied on any user club breaking a condition of use for the second time and a fine of £1000 be levied on any user club breaking a condition of use for a third time. Costs up to a maximum of £500 would also be charged for offences that involved additional maintenance or repair work to be undertaken.”**

Clerk

- c) Correspondence from Grove Challengers FC regarding clubhouse/changing facilities – The chairman explained that this correspondence was as a result of a meeting between Terry McCullough and Gary Stone of Grove Challengers FC and the council's chairman, vice-chairman and Cllr Ackers. Although the desire for more changing facilities was accepted, Cllr Parnell stated that there were still concerns and long term issues associated with one club managing its own facilities for use by other clubs and he believed that the club should wait until after an outline planning application had been submitted. Cllr Evans disagreed and believed that additional changing facilities were needed now and not in ten years' time. The chairman agreed and suggested that agreement could be made in principle.

It was **MOVED** the chairman **SECONDED** Cllr Evans and **RESOLVED** 7 in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention

Clerk

**“to recommend to full Council that it support, in principle, an application for changing facilities from Grove Challengers FC to cope with existing sports provision in Grove.”**

- d) Report on the condition of sports pitches on Grove Recreation Ground and Wasbrough Field – the clerk distributed the report to those councillors present. The chairman summarised the report and said that despite the efforts of the ground staff, certain areas, especially the Rangers pitch, did not appear as good as in previous years. Cllr Dexter said that the ground staff should be praised for their efforts. He also asked the clerk to ascertain what hours were normally spent on the recreation ground during the same period of the report.

Clerk

Clerk

## **8 Mably Way Recreational Area – update on progress**

Clerk The clerk was asked to enquire of the district council if the proposed sports pitches could be placed on its programme of works. The clerk was also to arrange a meeting with the Leisure and Recreation portfolio holder at the district council.

Clerk

## **9 Trees**

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

**“to accept the lowest quotations from those provided as per the list below”.**

- 5 x willows at Bosleys Orchard - Ringrose Tree Services £900
- 1 x poplar tree at Bosleys Orchard - N E Portlock £200
- 1 x willow in Mary Green play area - Ringrose Tree Services £185
- 3 x willows along Mary Green footpath near wooden bridge – Ringrose Tree Services £675
- 1 x plane tree on Cyril Wickham Way – Arborcare £200

**10 Committee objectives**

Ackers/  
Jones

It was suggested by Cllr Parnell and agreed that the committee chairman and vice-chairman meet to discuss this matter and bring their suggestions back to the next meeting for consideration.

**11 Joint Working Group – Replacement Tree Policy**

Cllrs Dexter and Mellersh were nominated and agreed to join the joint working group along with Cllrs Caldicott and Phillips from the Environmental Services Committee. Their remit was to formulate a tree replacement policy.

**12 Balance sheet for The Bell (Grove) FC for 2006/07**

The balance sheet was noted.

**13 Chairman’s urgent communications**

There were no urgent communications.

**14 General correspondence**

- a) TPO/3/1980 – Notification of the Vale’s revocation of Tree Preservation Order 3/1980 was noted.
- b) Grove RFC storage facilities – The copy letter from Grove RFC to the Vale regarding storage facilities was noted.
- c) Play and Activity – The brochure was noted.
- d) Kompan seminars – The dates for future seminars were noted.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm

Confirmed: 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2007

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Chairman