

**REPORT OF THE LEISURE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON 2<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER 2007 AT OLD MILL HALL, GROVE**

Present: Cllr W R Ackers (Chairman)  
Cllr S K Dexter  
Cllr M Mellersh  
Cllr J E Nunn-Price  
Cllr C Phillips  
Cllr J M Stock  
Cllr I Woodbridge

In attendance: Sarah Merritt (Crime Reduction Officer)

Clerk: Mr G M Mundy

**1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from councillors I Caldicott, W Evans, K Jones, F D Parnell and H Webb.

**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 S Dexter declared an interest in items 7 b).

**3 Sign report of committee meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2007**

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

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

It was generally agreed to take item 6 d) out of order.

**6 d) Discuss youth shelter (item taken out of order) – The chairman welcomed Sarah to the meeting in order to discuss the youth shelter situated in the Mary Green Play Area.**

Sarah said that she was not aware of any increases of incidents/problems around the youth shelter, and said that in her opinion if the youth shelter was moved or taken away from Grove, the problems would remain.

The chairman said that the question to be asked was “Will moving the youth shelter deter the youths and where could it be moved to.” The answer to the first part of the question was “no”. Sarah also said that realistically there was nowhere else in the village that the youth shelter could be moved to. The group of youths that use the shelter would not walk to a new location in the village to use it.

A brief discussion ensued in which Cllr Woodbridge said that everyone felt intimidated, young mums, pensioners and also fathers of young children using the park. Sarah Merritt said that even if the youth shelter was not there, the youths would sit on the grass in the drier months and carry on doing what they were doing.

It was **MOVED** Cllr Dexter **SECONDED** Cllr Mellersh and **RESOLVED** 6 in favour and 1 abstention

**“to accept the advice of Sarah Merritt and leave the youth shelter where is was and review this issue in 6 months.”**

Clerk

Cllr Nunn-Price raised the issue of a footpath leading from the youth shelter to the main footpath with the play area. The clerk was asked to look into this.

Clerk

**4 Matters arising from the report**

a) Item 7 b) (i) – Pitch Fees – The clerk informed the meeting that he had spoken to the secretary of GRFC regarding pitch fees.

b) Item 7 d) – Pitch Maintenance – The clerk informed the committee that the hours spent on routine maintenance at the Recreation Ground over the period of April to August was 168 hours, this summer the maintenance staff worked 418 hours there because of the state of the pitches. Cllr Dexter suggested that this information should be passed to the clubs for their information and comments. The chairman said he would do this at the next Pavilion Management meeting.

Chairman

- c) Item 11 – Tree Policy – Cllr Dexter and Mellersh reported that they had written up a new tree policy which is as follows:

The parish council is committed to maintaining and/or increasing the number of trees in the village on parish land, thus preserving the environment and ascetics of the village.

In consequence, whenever a tree is deemed unsafe/dies, or damaged beyond natural repair, following professional advice from the district or county tree officer, the parish council may make arrangements for its removal.

Wherever possible affected local residents will be informed of the reasons for the removal of the tree(s), and asked to comment on possible locations for replacements tree(s).

Replacement tree(s) shall be sourced from environmentally approved suppliers and planted within a six month period from removal. However, such replacements do not have to be planted in the same location nor be of the same genus. Advice will be sought from the district or county tree officer.

The parish council will make arrangements for an annual budget to be available for yearly maintenance and replacement tree requirements.

## 5 Reports from the following outside bodies

- a) Grove RFC Pavilion Management Committee – No meeting had taken place.
- b) Oxfordshire Playing Field Association – The chairman informed the committee that the AGM was held on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007.
- c) Grove Village Hall Management Meeting – Cllr Mellersh said that she attended a meeting two weeks ago and it appeared that since the playgroup had closed, the hall was struggling financially. The hall committee is considering putting up its fees – the first time in 15 years.
- d) Youth Advisory Committee – No recent meeting had been held. The Sweatbox Union minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> September were noted.

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

- a) Play equipment inspection reports:
- Summary of councillor reports – The summary was noted.
  - Annual RoSPA report – Cllr Nunn-Price asked and it was agreed the clerk check the pinch point on the gates to the Mary Green Play Area.

Clerk

The clerk informed the committee that the fencing around the Mary Green Play Area was in a state of dis-repair, this was despite efforts to repair the fence. The clerk was asked to obtain quotations for fencing, but in the mean time make the necessary repairs as the maintenance staff could.

Clerk

- Venturplay report – August – The report was noted.
- b) MaGIC update – The chairman reported that Tea's & Treats event raised £250 and further event are planned for the future. The chairman informed the committee that the AGM is coming up soon and volunteer are sought to join MaGIC.
- c) Mary Green Play Area – update – The chairman informed the committee that the loss adjuster has given the go ahead to commence the repair work to the play area. New play equipment and surfacing has been ordered and work should start week commencing 5<sup>th</sup> November 2007.
- e) 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.

Clerk

The clerk was asked to place an item in the Herald Series and Wantage & Grove Review.

## 7 Recreation ground/Wasbrough Field issues

- a) Request from Grove Challengers FC to hold its annual six-a-side competition on the weekend of 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> June 2008 – It was **MOVED** the chairman **SECONDED** Cllr Mellersh and **RESOLVED** unanimously

Clerk **“that permission be granted for Grove Challengers FC to hold its annual six-a-side competition on the weekend commencing 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> June 2008 subject to the usual conditions and permission from the land owner for car parking.”**

- b) Correspondence from Grove RFC regarding pitch layout – The letter from GRFC was copied to all councillors. The chairman informed the committee that he had previously requested all clubs to get together over the summer months to discuss future pitch layouts to ensure maximum use of the playing areas. He further explained that due to the misunderstanding Challengers FC had assumed that they had permission from other user clubs to mark a pitch in front of the rugby clubhouse. The chairman informed the committee that historically GRFC minis section were allowed to train on Sunday mornings on the area in front of the clubhouse, therefore no pitches area to be marked there. He said that he instructed the clerk to write to Challengers FC informing them of this situation, to which Challengers have replied.

Cllr Woodbridge said that he was concerned that the rest of the Leisure and Recreation Committee had not been consulted about the letter prior to it being sent, and also said that although the content of the letter was not important, the fact that he was not aware of the problem was. Cllr Stock said that if every decision made by the chairman of the committee and clerk came before the committee then a full cycle of meeting (6 weeks) would take place and elongate issues and possibly make them worse.

It was suggested that the council facilitate a meeting between the Challengers FC and GRFC in order to resolve this issue. Cllr Dexter said that the council should not facilitate a meeting, but allow the clubs to sort this issue out amongst them, because the parish council’s stance on this issue is clear. He suggested and it was generally agreed that the clerk write to all clubs and remind them of the parish councils stance on this issue and inform them that they still need to liaise with each other to resolve the issue. The chairman said that he would bear Cllr Woodbridge’s comments in mind in the future.

Clerk

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

The chairman informed the committee that correspondence had been received from the district council regarding the Mably Way football pitches. The district council intimated that the new pitches could be on line by spring 2009. However, the chairman informed the committee that the parish council are trying to arrange a meeting to discuss the possibility of having the pitches ready for the start of the 2008/09 season.

Clerk

#### 9 Trees

Correspondence from Mrs Dorothy Thropp – The chairman explained that Mrs Thropp had contacted him and the clerk she was concerned at the Willows, along Pill Ditch could fall into her garden. The clerk explained that the Vales free officer had gone out to have a look at the Willows and reported that 8 Willows would have to be pollarded as a matter of urgency.

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

Chairman  
Clerk

**“that the chairman and clerk be granted delegated authority and accept the lowest quote for the works to a maximum of £1,250 or this matter be referred back to committee.”**

Clerk

The clerk is to inform Mrs Thropp accordingly.

#### 10 Committee objectives

The chairman informed the committee that he would like to come up with five objectives. Following discussion the following were agreed:

- To function within the budget
- To ensure all councillors are trained in playground inspections
- To ensure contributions are made to the Grove Airfield Development
- To foster and improve relationships with sports clubs and the parish council.
- To year on year improvements to the Leisure & Recreation facilities in Grove.

#### 11 Correspondence from Mr & Mrs Bailey of 1 Collett Way, Grove

The chairman reminded and informed the committee that it is council policy not to sell parish council land. Cllr Dexter said that by selling pieces of land, it would add value to the parish council finances.

The clerk informed the committee that there were 47 small parcels of land in Grove.

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

**“to recommend to Full council to review the policy of not selling pieces of council owned land.”**

*Clerks Note: The clerk informed the committee that the area of land at the rear of 1 Collett Way was laid to paving stones. Having checked the area again I can confirm that this land is in fact laid to grass with 3 mature trees within the boundary.*

Clerk The clerk was asked to write to Mr & Mrs Bailey and inform them of the committee's actions.

**12 Membership of the IOG**

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

Clerk **“to renew membership of the IOG at an annual premium of £80.”**

**13 Quotations and purchase of Heras fencing**

It was **MOVED** the chairman **SECONDED** Cllr Nunn-Price and **RESOLVED** unanimously

Clerk **“to accept the quotation from Temp Fence Supplies for 10 x fencing panels and associated ancillaries at a cost of £294.00 plus VAT.”**

**14 Purchase of multi coloured Christmas Tree lights**

Clerk The clerk informed the meeting that no prices had yet been sought and was asked to provide quotes for the next meeting.

It was **MOVED** Cllr Dexter **SECONDED** the chairman and **RESOLVED** 3 for, 3 against and 1 abstention (the chairman made his casting vote for)

**“to purchase multi coloured Christmas Tree lights for this years decorations.”**

**15 Chairman's urgent communications**

a) Request from GRFC for the annual bonfire and fireworks display to be held on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2007 – it was generally agreed to allow the annual bonfire and fireworks display to take place.

b) Request from Garry Kingett for a memorial bench to be installed on the Recreation Ground – The clerk informed the meeting that the Sweatbox and friends of Ian Donald (who recently died of meningitis) be allowed to donate a bench in his memory to be placed on the Recreation Ground.

Clerk It was generally agreed to allow a bench to be installed subject to the clerk obtaining and agreeing an exact location. The chairman suggested and it was generally agreed that the council's maintenance staff install the bench.  
Clerk

**14 General correspondence**

There were no general correspondence.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Confirmed: 13<sup>th</sup> November 2007

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman