

**REPORT OF THE LEISURE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON 3<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER 2006 AT OLD MILL HALL, GROVE**

Present: Cllr R E Hicks-Greene (Chairman)  
Cllr R L Bashford  
Cllr W Evans  
Cllr K Jones  
Cllr M Mellersh  
Cllr J Nunn-Price (part meeting)  
Cllr F D Parnell

Clerk: Mr G M Mundy

**1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs W Ackers, S Cotton and J Stock.

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

Cllr M Mellersh declared an interest in item 19.

**3 Sign report of committee meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 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 4 a) – Lighting the basketball/kickabout area – The clerk informed the meeting that he had spoken to several of the youths who initially asked for the area to be floodlit. The clerk had explained the concerns of local residents from Farmstead Close and the approximate costs. Although the youths involved still used the Grove Youth Centre, they could not see themselves using a floodlit area in the future because they had in their words “moved on from hanging around late at night.” Several of the youths were in their last year of secondary school and one had actually left. They did recognise the need for a facility of this kind in Grove but in the right location. The clerk also informed the meeting that there had been no reply from Garry Kingett concerning this issue. Cllr K Jones suggested and it was generally agreed that the council should not pursue this issue any further until such time as Garry Kingett replied to the council’s letter.

Clerk *Clerk’s notes: The clerk will inform the residents of Farmstead Close of the council’s decision.*

- b) Item 6 b) – Reply from council’s insurers – The clerk informed the meeting that the council’s insurers had replied to the letter regarding monthly inspections. Allianz –Cornhill have said that the council must have an annual professional inspection and a weekly inspection undertaken by a “responsible adult”. All inspections must be logged and findings recorded. The clerk informed the meeting that in addition to the above, Venturplay carry out a monthly inspection for the council. It was unanimously agreed that Venturplay continue to inspect the council’s playground/areas. The clerk was asked to monitor the content of the next Venturplay report. The clerk also informed the meeting that because it was an insurance requirement to carry out weekly inspections, any councillors unable to carry out an inspection are to inform the clerk immediately so that he can arrange for an inspection to take place.

Clerk

All

- c) Item 11 – Village Christmas Tree – The clerk informed the meeting that OCC had acknowledged the council’s request to plant a Christmas Tree on the grassed area on the junction of Main Street/Vale Avenue, but have yet to give their permission. The clerk also informed the committee that he had spoken to John Twaites, who was paying for the new tree, and he told the clerk that if permission was granted by OCC but not enough time to source and plant a tree, John Twaites would purchase a temporary tree for this Christmas. It was agreed that this item remains on the agenda for the foreseeable future.

- d) Item 6 b) – Litter bins in Mary Green Play Area – The clerk informed the committee that he had obtained prices for new litter bins as requested because the council held two new bins in the storage shed. Following discussion it was generally agreed to re-site the litter bins and add one new bin as follows:

- 1 x bin in the middle of the two benches
- 1 x bin by the picnic table
- 1 x bin by the Millbrook Shops gate
- 1 x bin by the gate to Bosleys Orchard/bridge

- e) Cllr J Nunn-Price reminded the committee that as it was the end of the month councillors should be logging on to the "Big Charity Box" website in order to raise money for MAGIC. Cllr K Jones asked the clerk to forward the link to him.

Clerk

## 5 Reports from the following outside bodies

- a) Grove RFC Pavilion Management Committee – The minutes from the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> September were noted. Councillors raised the following points:

Clerk

- The clerk should investigate the possibility of using Faringdon Electricals to repair the training pitch floodlights.

Clerk

- Cllr R Bashford reported that lamp no 4 remained on during the day and is to be reported to SEC.

Clerk

- The clerk write to Challengers FC informing them that an area of the training area had already been designated to them which is the end of the training area by the sub-station.

- b) Oxfordshire Playing Field Association – There had been no meeting.

- c) Youth Advisory Committee – There had been no meeting.

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

- a) Play equipment inspection reports:

Summary of councillor reports – The summary was noted.

- b) Venturplay reports – the following observations were made:

Clerk

- Monitor the wire fence around the immobilised see-saw in Mary Green Play Area.

Clerk

- Monitor the child seat at Westbrook

The chairman remarked about the bland appearance of the contents of the report and it was agreed to wait for the next report to see if there was an improvement.

- c) RoSPA report – This was dealt with at the last meeting.

- d) MaGIC update – The clerk informed the meeting that he had attended the media training at the Central TV studios. He told the committee that 5 other good causes were represented, 3 of which were from the reserve list and 2 from the proper list. The clerk was asked to write again to the district council with regard to the lottery money being distributed to good causes by the district council.

Clerk

- e) Accidents in the Mary Green Play Area – The clerk reported that there were two accidents in the Mary Green Play Area in August:

Clerk

1) On 21<sup>st</sup> August 2006 a 20 month old toddler fell off the platform on the multplay equipment at the rear of the slide on to the protective matting. The council insurance company have been informed and have requested certain information from the council. At this stage it was unclear if the parents of the toddler were going to pursue a claim against the council. The clerk was asked to verify with KOMPAN the age groups for certain types of equipment.

*Clerks note: The parents of the toddler have taken legal advice and have made an insurance claim against the council. At this stage we are gathering evidence requested by the council insurance company.*

2) On 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2006 an 18 month old toddler fell over in the Mary Green Play Area and sustained a cut to her leg from broken glass. This was reported to the council insurance company who have since requested information on frequency of cleaning, is the area fenced off, previous incidents.

Clerk

The clerk was asked to reply to the parents letter informing them that all of the playgrounds in Grove are alcohol free areas the matting is specifically designed so as to make objects visible and pass on the councils thanks for clearing away the broken glass. The clerk was also asked to pass on the name of the Thames Valley Police Crime Reduction Officer to the parents.

- e) Village Hall Allotments – Cllr M Mellersh commented that when judging was taking place for the allotment competition, it was noted that some of the plots at the village hall site were overgrown quite badly. The clerk informed the committee that he had visited the site and that out of the 14 plots there 4

were either unused or just become vacant. It was generally agreed that the clerk write to the next four residents on the waiting list and offer the plots to them free of rent for the first year. It the offer was not taken up the maintenance staff are to reduce the overgrowth by the spring.

Clerk

**7 Recreation ground/Wasbrough Field issues**

- a) Grove Rugby Club mini rugby festival – The clerk reminded the meeting the festival took place on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2006. Although there were some cars parked indiscriminately on the roads around the Recreation Ground area, it was felt that the rugby club did all they could to resolve the parking issues from last year. The clerk informed the committee that one spectator had to be taken to the JR Hospital following a heart attack and 3 other injuries from the rugby field were reported to him. The clerk also informed the committee that because of the weather conditions, the Recreation Ground and the training pitch would be placed out of bounds for the week to rest the areas. The clerk sought approval for and was granted permission to place the Recreation Ground and training pitch out of bounds for the weekend of 7/8 October to further rest the ground. The clerk is to inform the clubs accordingly. It was further discussed that the rugby club should provide assistance with the re-instatement of the ground in accordance with the conditions of use. The clerk was asked to look in to this. The clerk was also asked to place on the agenda for the next leisure and Recreation meeting an item regarding restricting the number of teams/players allowed for next years festival.

Clerk

Clerk

**8 Mably Wav Recreational Area**

No update had been provided.

**9 Trees**

Correspondence from Mrs Claire re Poplars at Dove Green – Mrs Claire, in her letter was asking the council to reconsider its decision to remove the three Poplars at Dove Green. The committee had received the report from the county council tree officer and because of the potential risk of the trees falling on properties generally agreed to accept the decision to fell the trees in the autumn. The clerk is to write and inform Mrs Claire of the decision and explain that Dove Green will be considered when the Amenity Tree Planting Scheme is discussed. Notices are to be placed on the trees to this effect.

Clerk

**Cllr J Nunn-Price left the meeting**

**10 To discuss the potential use of additional recreational space at North Drive following the potential education change affecting Grove Church of England School and Millbrook County Primary School**

Clerk  
All

The committee decided that this matter be discussed at the next Full Council meeting. Councillors are asked to think about suggestions for the use of the land.

**11 Invitation to the AGM of the OPFA on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2006**

The chairman said that both she and Cllr W Ackers usually attend this meeting.

**12 Chairman's urgent communications**

- a) The clerk informed the committee that he had received a letter from a local man who specialised in contract spraying. The clerk had written back to him, thanking him for his letter and informing him that his details will be kept on file.
- b) The clerk informed the committee that Cllr R Ackers had given permission for RoSPA to carry out play safety training at the skatepark on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> November 2006.

**14 General correspondence**

There were no general correspondences.

The meeting closed at 9.14 pm

Confirmed: 14<sup>th</sup> November 2006

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Chairman