Report of the Recreation Committee Meeting 18th July 2011

Present: Cllrs. Richard Knight (Chairman); Douglas Cracknell; Charmian Marsh;

In attendance: Brenda Hambrook (Parish Clerk); Pauline Garfield (OAA); Brian Thomas (GMS); Cllr. Elizabeth Ward

Apologies for absence: Mary Evans; Jackie Howe

Minutes of the meeting held on 18th April 2011

Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered by the agenda.

Minor repair to the door of electrical supply box is still to be done. BT
Safety work required on the electrical supply to OUFC;
Still waiting for one of their members to make the repairs. BH / RK

1. Allotments.
   a. Water Rates. Water usage is charged at £1.50 per rod.
      Do the OAA receipts from this charge and handed over to OPC, actually cover the water charges paid by OPC? 
      BH

   b. Rent. A year’s notice has to be given from this October to put up the Allotment charges.
      The Rents must be reviewed at our next meeting.

   c. Neglected plots. OPC were unhappy that they had to pay for clearing a badly neglected plot.
      At the next OAA Committee meeting on 20/8 there is a proposal that messy allotments will be strimmed by the allotment committee and if allotments are left in a bad condition then exiting owners will be charged £30 to cover the cost of clearing it. Tenants taking on neglected plots are generally offered a rent free period. The Committee suggested that allotment holders pay into a refundable ‘Deposit’ or ‘Bond’ scheme.

   d. OAA had a stand at the Otford Village Fete and was pleased to contribute £80 to the OVF fund.

2. High Street Recreation Ground
   a. Brian Thomas. - “Ground Maintenance Supervisor” (GMS) gave his report, items of which are included in the following entries.

   b. Grass cutting. Philip Edmead (prop. Acorn Garden Maintenance) has been unable to fulfil his contract and the work has been given to Norman Catt. He has agreed to do the work for the same price; the Cricket outfield for £60 and the Parish Areas £50 per cut.
      Certain areas have been overlooked and Norman will be given a comprehensive schedule of work. BT
      BT has replaced a damaged sheet on the Tractor shed.

   c. Football & Pavilion.
      OUFC would like a removable ‘post and rail’ fence, on the pavilion side, running along the length of pitch and extending just around the corner at each end.
      We would consider any scheme they present to us, provided it can be readily dismantled after each game. When they gain entry into their league’s, premier division, then we will reconsider other options and seek possible grants that may be available for necessary ground improvement.
      Fire and Static Water assessments are to be carried out on the pavilion.
      OUFC asked if OPC would pay for painting materials for the interior painting of the pavilion. The Committee felt it was down to the football club to find the money.

   d. Otford United Junior Football Club. (Note change of name) are storing some of their equipment in the tractor shed. OPC does not accept any liability for any loss or damage to that equipment. It is stored at ‘their own risk’. RK

   e. Play Area. There has been some vandalism to the roundabout, EIBE climbing structure and graffiti on the youth shelter. Thankfully this has been repaired and secured by Brian Thomas, and the graffiti removed by Assistant Parish Clerk and Community Warden.

   f. Cricket. No information

   g. Tennis. Notice board for the Public Court. At long last, Norman has this nearly completed! BH
h. Electricity and Water supply.
There is a box containing electricity meters in the recreation ground.
We must check who is receiving these services (both water and electricity) and whether they are being correctly charged and that OPC is recouping the costs from the relevant organisations. (Viz. Allotments, Cricket, Football and Tennis.)

GP & Finance committee & BH

3. OSA
a. Committee Meeting 06.07.11 the occupation of the Pavilion by OUFC is by agreement with OPC, not OSA
b. Insurance – OPC to take over the insurance of the Tractor shed. Contact KALC to find out if that additional OSA public liability is required. BH
c. Slight amendments to the Constitution requested by OUFC and accepted. RK
d. Next meeting 12th October

4. Chalk Pit
Enquiry from OUJFC about using it. They will inspect and report back. Part of the area is a Victorian rubbish dump containing large amounts of glass which could be a hazard. They will need access to toilets. (Scout hut?)

5. Hale Lane Recreation Ground & Pavilion.
a. Licence agreement for the occupation of the pavilion by OUJFC to be drafted. RK
b. Playdale Playground Equip Ltd. No obligation meeting with Jill Watson 9th Aug 15.45hrs
c. A Community Tree planting morning 5th November. We are still £500 short of total funds needed.
d. A fire risk and general inspection of the building was carried out by Jon Verrall. (18 July am.)
The fire door recently installed is totally inadequate and the job poorly executed. The contractor, who is due to install another, must be stopped. The doors need not be replaced immediately, but must be budgeted for in a couple of year’s time. BH
The shower units must be sealed-off and unused. It will need a ‘static water inspection’ and with the various changes required, the estimated cost will be £1500 - £2000. RK - to inform OUJFC

6. Youth Forum/Council
Meeting 23.06.11 at Methodist Church Hall was very poorly attended. Next meeting scheduled 6th October.
An attendee said he would produce an advertising leaflet to promote the Forum.
Very keen to see ‘a multi-games area’ installed. (A cage-like structure). Suggested that Telston Park would be an ideal site.

7. AOB
a. Dog Fouling. Hope to get other bin in the rec. between the Petanque and Football Pavilion. The one behind the Cricket club nets to be repositioned. OUFC asked for small deterrent notices to be put around the worst areas.
(Ref only: Number of bins; 4 - Main rec; 2 Telston Park; 1 Hale lane Rec. Current cost for waste removal = £400/ qtr)
b. Mud Scraper by rec. entrance to the Play Area could be a hazard. This will be removed and the entrance will be closed during the winter months. Access to the Play Area will be via the car park gate, close to the allotments. BT
c. Creep Matting to be placed around the pedestrian entrance to the rec. BT
d. Youth Activities Play Scheme in the main rec. has ceased due to lack of interest, but will run during the Summer Holidays.
e. Planning application from the Tennis Club for Floodlighting to No. 3 court.
f. Suggestion: Received from Ron Dullage about the possible development of a Pavilion and Balcony, as a second storey extension to the Village Memorial Hall for the benefit of Otford Cricket Club.

8. Date and place of next scheduled meeting, 19th September, 8:00 pm at School House