Report of the Recreation Committee to be held on Monday 23rd January 2012
‘Civitas Vegeta et Strenua’

This meeting was originally to be held on the 16th January and was rearranged because of a ‘black-out’ cause by a local power failure.

Present: Cllr Richard Knight (Chairman); Cllr Mary Evans; Cllr Jackie Howe; Cllr Charmian Marsh; Brenda Hambrook (Parish Clerk).

Mike Richards (The new OAA Representative) gave his report at a brief non-quorum meeting held 16.01.12, so was excused attendance at this meeting.

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr Doug Cracknell; Brian Thomas (GMS);

2. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 21.11.11

3. Allotments:

3.1 Although most plots are let, concern was expressed about a number of plots that appear to be neglected. To attract interest from local residents, a notice will appear in the February edition of the Parish Newsletter, so that a waiting list can be created. Preference should be given to parishioners.

3.2 Barbara Hinde, the current ‘Letting Agent’, will be handing the role over to Roger Beasley at the end of the year.

3.3 Allotment Holders have complained about OBM burning plastic, creating obnoxious smells and copious amounts of black smoke. OBC to be approached.

3.4 The car parking area needs attention and OAA would like the area scrapped-off and filled with crushed gravel (MOT type 1 material). Could OPC contribute towards the cost, estimated to be £800? The Committee were unhappy about this and considered it to be a large area and in the green belt. Funds would not be available in the foreseeable future. They could seek funds elsewhere. More information about this is needed.

3.5 Dog owners are frequently visiting the allotments, allowing their animals to run freely, and to leave their mess. (More prominent notices? / banning? / locking the gates?) The Committee thought the OAA would be best placed to suggest ideas that might mitigate the problem and then to implement them.

4. High Street Recreation Ground

4.1 Brian Thomas to report

4.2 A warning letter has been sent to a resident in Park Lane, who has been
fly-tipping garden waste at the bottom of the boundary fence.

4.3 **OUFC** have a number of outstanding financial commitments and obligation to OPC regarding the pavilion. Discussions will be taking place to resolve the situation. They have been given a daft of the calculations for their monthly payments.

4.4 **OUJFC (Junior Football)** have moved the unsightly goal posts protruding behind the tractor shed.

4.5 The access gate to the **Play Area** from the Rec. is locked for the winter to prevent footballers bringing in mud. Access is via the car park gate. A notice to this effect is displayed. Safety aspects relating to this arrangement have been checked.

Broken glass and mess was cleared up, thanks to BH and colleagues, on Thursday morning of the 19.01.12.

4.6 **Cricket Club** will be using ‘Robingate’ to roll the grass when the conditions are right.

4.7 **Tennis club** will be getting a new 50 year lease allowing for long-term planning and improvements. OPC will instruct ‘Knockett & Foskitt to draw it up. The Club will be paying the costs.

4.8 **Petanque Club** would like to pave the area around the picnic area. As this is a public amenity, would OPC be willing to contribute towards the cost?

It is very unlikely in the present climate that OPC would have funds available. It may be possible that paving slabs could be obtained from Tudor Crescent when their slabs are being replaced by tarmac. They could seek donations from other benefactors.

4.9 **Other concerns.** There is a cracked drain cover adjacent to Park Lane. It is marked by warning tapes. It has been reported to Thames Water.

5. **OSA**

5.1 Next meeting is Wednesday 25th January 2012

5.2 The notice on the Recreation entrance gate does not reflect the current situation, that the sports clubs, in conjunction OPC, maintain the ground.

The OSA would like this to be replaced, to include a liability disclaimer, making visitors aware of those who maintain the ground.

6. **Chalk Pit**

6.1 A new lock has been fitted to the access gate after the old one was damaged.

6.2 Garden rubbish is being dumped by some Tudor Drive residents whose gardens back onto the pit. They will be written to.

6.3 **Hale Lane Recreation Ground and Pavilion**

7.1 **Pavilion.** A new lock has been fitted. 6 licensed keys were provided. 3 keys are held by named officials of OUJFC, 1 by Norman Catt and 2 are held in the office.

It is important that a **Key Record Book** is held at the office.

**All Keys** must be signed out, and signed in, by all recipients, recording their names, dates and times.

**Pavilion Quotes** have been received for a ‘Sadia’ water heater for the kitchen. The cost is in the region of £300.

A Referee’s shower is not required.
7.2 Proposed Children’s Play Area – 5 quotations with associated plans have been received and displayed in the library. Grants totalling £36K are being applied for.

7.3 Fencing, separating the car park from the recreation ground, to prevent vehicles driving onto the pitches and provide additional child protection is being considered. Fencing similar to the High Street Rec. is likely to cost over £1,000

8. Youth Forum/Council
8.1 Next meeting is 26th January in School House. CM+JH+RK
8.2 District Youth Quiz (11-18 yrs) is being held on Friday 30th March at the Plaza Suite Stag Community Arts Centre. JH

8.3 A meeting was held with Chris Hennis and his co-worker Toni, to discuss youth activities and general concerns. Also present was Paul Robertson, our Community Warden. There remains some money from last year’s ‘Members’ Grant’. It was agreed that it be used for a repeat series of ‘Activity Play Days’ to be held in the Main Recreation ground during the summer holidays. Many of the youth problems a few years ago have eased, as the miscreants have moved, or are in work. This does not mean that we should be complacent. There are many growing youngsters in the community and we must be proactive in engaging with them.

9. A.O.B.
9.1 The vegetation between the Tennis Club and Allotments, (bordering the High St. side of the 2 floodlight courts) comprising of trees, shrubs and undergrowth, are reaching a height of over 12ft. They cast a shadow on the courts and with their fallen leaves, the courts remain wet and are getting mouldy. Ice can also be a problem in cold weather. Could a joint working party of the Tennis Club and OAA tackle this problem? Brian Thomas to be consulted.

9.2 Suggestion; to ‘flag-up’ dog mess in the rec. to make the public aware of the problem, and dog owners of their responsibility. We understand this has been carried out in other parishes.

9.2 QE2 playing fields. The benefits are unclear. SDC is not encouraging participation. Further investigation will be needed if OPC think it is worthwhile.

The date of the next scheduled meeting Monday 19th March 2012, 8.00pm at School House / Parish Office.