Report of the Recreation Committee to be held on Monday 19th March 2012
8.00 pm School House / Parish Office
‘Civitas Vegeta et Strenua’

Present: Cllr Richard Knight (Chairman); Cllr Mary Evans; Cllr Jackie Howe; Brian Thomas (GMS); Mike Richards (OAA); Brenda Hambrook (Parish Clerk).

1. Apologies received for absence:
Cllr Doug Cracknell; Cllr Charmian Marsh;

1.1 The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved

2. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 23.01.12 not on the agenda

(3.3) Paul Robertson (Community Warden) has spoken to OBM concerning the burning of plastic bags. This has largely ceased apart from the odd occasion. He will be asked to visit them again.

(3.5) There are inconsiderate dog walkers allowing their dogs to defecate in the allotments without clearing away the mess. Dogs must be on leads. There are prominent notices which are ignored and probably more notices are required. Allotment holders should politely remind any forgetful owner of their obligations.

(6.2) Some residents in Tudor Drive are dumping their garden rubbish over their back fence into the chalk pit. There is some building work being undertaken at one property and BT will check to see that other waste is also not being disposed there. They will be written to.

(7.1) A Key Record Book is now in operation in the Parish Office

A ‘Sadia’ water heater has been installed in the Hale Lane Pavilion kitchen

(9.1) The hedge between the Tennis Club and the Allotments has been cut back

(9.2) There are no benefits from registering our playing areas for ‘QE2 playing fields’

3. Allotments:

3.1 Part of the area used for Car Parking needs stabilising, as the ground can get very spongy and waterlogged. The committee recognise this and would be happy to review any costed plan that will effectively ameliorate the problem, provided it is environmentally sensitive. It is in the green belt and whereas crushed gravel (MOT type 1 material) might fulfil the task we would consider tarmac to be inappropriate. The OPC budget 2012-2013 has no funds available at the moment to contribute to this project. (The situation could be reviewed towards the end of the financial year.) We suggest that funding is sought elsewhere.
3.2 If the hosepipe ban, to be implemented on the 5\textsuperscript{th} April, continues all through the summer and autumn, then tenants who have paid the hose charge will have the payment credited against next year’s charge.

3.3 Concern was expressed again about the number of plots that have been let to outsiders. OAA and OPC must encourage local residents to consider taking plots by putting their names on a waiting list. This is to be advertised in the Parish Newsletter.

4. **High Street Recreation Ground**

4.1 Brian Thomas presented his report. The contents are recorded below.

4.2 There has been no response from the resident in Park Lane who has been fly-tipping garden waste at the bottom of the boundary fence and neither has their contribution towards the cost of drain clearance been received, despite two requests.

4.3 OUFC owe OPC £1,166 for electricity and £609 for water. This represents the supply for the last 2 years. This is a serious situation. If settlement is not made before 31.03.2012, the financial year-end, they will appear as debtors in the accounts. This will reflect very badly on both parties; on OPC for allowing this to continue and highlight OUFC financial difficulties. A meeting is to be arranged to discuss this problem.

4.4 OUJFC (Junior Football) The goal post protruding above garages have been moved. Reported that stray dogs off the lead have been a nuisance. Also observed, one dog owner riding a mountain bike to exercise their dog! (Should this be allowed?)

4.5 **Play Area** - There have been complaints from mothers because the entrance gate from the recreation ground has been locked to prevent mud being brought into the play area and cause deterioration of the safety surface. It has been closed during the winter. Entry is accessed via the car park gate. It has been reported that some walkers have been seen using the play equipment to clean their footwear and afterwards the seats as a convenience to change them. A clear permanent sign needs to be erected to explain the situation.

4.6 **Cricket Club** reports that Norman Catt has commenced the mowing, but has been neglecting the area between the Nets and Park Lane hedge and a strip west of the boundary.

4.7 **Tennis Club** correspondence relating to a new 50 year lease, and the inclusion of a break clause was considered. SDC legal department are to be approached.

4.8 **Petanque Club**. There are no objections to the club paving an area around the picnic table. There could be a possibility of using the paving slabs from Tudor Crescent when they are removed. The Heritage Garden may have spare paving and so might other residents?

4.9 **Other concerns** -

Quilting Show, 20\textsuperscript{th} – 21\textsuperscript{st} April. The organiser asked whether it would be possible to park on the recreation ground? (The OSA would also have had to be consulted.) The Committee turned this request down. The show organiser has been put in touch with Fr Harvey, at Holy Trinity RC Church, as an alternative
parking solution.

Dog Fouling:
’Flag-up days’ (have been very successful elsewhere). Combined event; to include Services & Environment Committees and Sports Clubs????
Plus extra signage?

Combined effort?
Signs

5. **OSA**
AGM - Wednesday 25th April 2012
They have requested that the sign on the recreation gate is replaced with a new sign to reflect the current situation and to include a liability disclaimer.

Sign

6. **Chalk Pit**
Some perimeter fencing along Station Road & PWE has been replaced.

7. **Hale Lane Recreation Ground and Pavilion**
Children’s Play area (Project cost £38,000).
KCC have informed us unofficially that we have been awarded £1,500 from the Members Community Fund.
Sita Grant application submitted. (£36,500. To be revised to £35,000 in light of the KCC award.) A Contributing Third Party (CTP) payment of £4,000 approx. is required to release this grant.)
We have secured £7,000 in grants from the following sources. SDC Big Community Fund £3,000; Otford Society £500; OPC £1,000; Fete Committee £1,000; KCC Members Grant £1,500. Some of this money will be used for the CTP payment.

8. **Youth Forum/Council**
District Youth Quiz night (30.03.12) at the Plaza Suite Community Arts Centre.
No team assembled yet
Concern was expressed about the need for Councillors to be CRB checked.

9. **A.O.B.**
9.1 20th July the Olympic torch passes through Sevenoaks. Many local schools have been invited to witness the event, but not Otford Schools. The may attend if they wish.

9.2 Bike racks in the car park? Brenda will contact Leslie Bowles to find out if funds are available because of the Para-Olympic cycling event at Brands Hatch.

BH

The date of the next scheduled meeting Monday 28th May 2012, 8.00pm at School House / Parish Office.

**Signs needed for Recreation Ground:**
1) Gate to the play area 2) Dog Fouling 3) Replacement for the OSA sign on the entrance gate