Report of the Recreation Committee held on Monday 19th November 2012, 8.00pm School House
‘Civitas Vegeta et Strenua’

Present
Committee: Cllr Richard Knight (Chairman); Cllr Doug Cracknell; Cllr Jackie Howe; Cllr Charmian Marsh.
Attendees: Brenda Hambrook (Parish Clerk & RFO); Brian Thomas (GMS); Mike Richards (OAA).

1. **Apologies received for absence:** Cllr Mary Evans

2. **The Minutes of the previous meeting 17.09.12 were approved**

3. **Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 17.09.12 not on the agenda**
   6.2 Rubbish dumping in the Chalk continually being monitored. **Cont. BT**
   5.1 Minor repairs to the soft impact surface in the main Recreation Play area. An alternative contractor will be consulted about this repair. **Cont. BT**
   5.9 i) BT is waiting access to OUJFC’s locked compound to retrieve a spare litterbin. It is to be placed at a convenient position to OUJFC playing area. **BT**
   ii) No minuted records could be found showing OCC would pay for the re-siting of the Dog bin close to their cricket nets. Therefore, OPC will move the bin. **BH**

4. **Allotments:**
   4.1 The Methodist Church has agreed to consult with OAA, whenever any work is undertaken along their mutual boundary. The Church is planning to replace their timber retaining wall. **DC**
   4.2 The lettings situation at 12th November is as follows:
   Awaiting renewal payments 11; 4 on the waiting list with 1 plot vacant.
   4.3 (See 4.5 from previous minutes.) The trees alongside the Darent footpath, adjacent to Mill Meadow need lopping. Ownership of the land needs to be established. Old correspondence has been located and is to be reviewed. (Last trimming believed to have taken place in 1962!)

5. **High Street Recreation Ground**
   5.1 Brian Thomas reported that Norman Catt is struggling to get his work completed.
   5.2 OUFC The Committee recommends that OPC remove all obligations, for the moment, from OUFC to pay the costs of health and safety regulations in connection with the football pavilion. (viz, Legionnaires check; Smoke Alarm test; Sprinkler service; emergency light test; replacement of Fire extinguishers; Five year electrical test, etc.) The Club is unable to meet this unexpected financial burden. OPC has ownership of the building.
   The committee recommend that OUFC be billed directly for their water and electricity, if it is feasible. New meters may have to be installed.
   The current electricity bill for £406.69 is due for payment.
   When the “10-year special occupancy agreement” expires, a new agreement will have to be made.
   5.3 OUJFC (Junior Football) No report
   5.4 Play Area - Some of the climbing apparatus timbers need replacing **BT**
   5.5 Cricket Club - No report
5.6 Tennis club
The Committee discussed the Valuation Report from DVS. The Chairman had had further consultations with the LTA, KLTA, Nicholas Coote (DVS Valuer) and a former member of KLTA Committee. 
Before the Committee make its recommendation known to OPC, it felt that the Tennis Club should be consulted first, to find out whether they wish to continue on the basis of a 50-year lease with a rent based on the DVS valuation. 

5.7 Petanque Club – No report

5.8 Dogs & Dog Fouling:
Mrs Jackie White, a resident, sent an e-mail to OPC after suffering an unpleasant incident in the Recreation Ground when she was knocked over by a dog and suffered abuse from its owner. She suggested all dogs should be on a lead, or failing that, there should be a fenced area where dogs could run free. These suggestions have been raised before. We considered that in both cases they would be difficult to police and in the second, an additional cost, as well as taking out an area of land.

5.9 Other concerns: Nothing to report

5.10 Grass Mowing – In view of the unsatisfactory mowing arrangements and the shabby state of the grass, quotations are being sought from other contractors.

5.11 Unauthorised training classes – It appears there are a couple of organised training classes, which may be on a fee-paying-for-profit basis. Neither has sought permission from the OSA. A standard letter will be prepared stating a requirement to join the OSA and provide evidence they have Public Liability Insurance for their activity.

6. OSA:
Minutes & report of the meeting held Wednesday 31st October was received

7. Chalk Pit:
7.1 There is rubbish on the footpath close to the scout hut.
7.2 The Scouts are changing their gate for a 15ft gate at their own expense.
7.3 Scouts are awaiting a new lease on the land where their premises are located.

8. Hale Lane Recreation Ground and Pavilion:
8.1 The new Play Area has nearly been completed. The wet weather has affected the official handover from “SutcliffePlay” and has been further delayed until certain modifications have been made. The area is very muddy and the Play Area, minus the moveable fittings, which will go into secure storage, will remain closed until spring. Arrangements will have to be made for an official opening.
8.2 More hedging, preferably hawthorn, needs replanting. BT will find a supply of young trees. A working party will be needed.
8.3 QEI Playing Fields – Still awaiting the new lease!

9. Youth Activities – Nothing to report

10. Other matters
10.1 The following dates are suggested for Committee Meetings in 2013.
21st January; 18th March; 21st May, 15th July; 16th September & 18th November.

The date of the next scheduled meeting Monday 21st January 2013, 8.00pm at School House/Parish Office.