Report of the Recreation Committee held on Monday 21st January 2013, 8.00pm School House
‘Civitas Vegeta et Strenua’

Present: Cllr Richard Knight (Chairman); Cllr Doug Cracknell; Cllr Mary Evans; 
Cllr Jackie Howe; Cllr Charmian Marsh.
In Attendance: Brenda Hambrook (Parish Clerk & RFO); Brian Thomas (GMS).

1. Apologies received for absence: Mike Richards (OAA)

2. The Minutes of the previous meeting 19.11.12 were approved.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting 19.11.12 not on the agenda

   6.2 The dumping of garden waste from Tudor Drive continues. It is being monitored. 
      Waste has also been dumped that appears to come from a residence(s) of “The Oast 
      House,” Station Rd. A photo is to be taken and letter sent to the householder(s).

4. Allotments:

   4.1 The situation regarding the trees bordering allotments at Mill Meadow. Parish maps indicate that the ownership of the land west of the allotment boundary, including the footpath and riverbank, is likely to be OPC. This may include potential fishing rights. Letters will be written to the owners of “Mill House”, “The Chalet” and “Troutbeck” to ascertain the extent of their properties and trees that could be a future hazard.

   4.2 Currently there is nobody on the waiting list for an allotment.

5. High Street Recreation Ground

   5.1 i) BT reported that the Colts pitch was in a poor state due irregular cutting throughout the wet summer.

   ii) Nottssport’s solution to repair the soft impact surface around the Eibe climbing equipment is £4,000 and far more expensive than anticipated. It will not go ahead. Instead, a repair kit has been purchased and BT will patch and mend as required.

   iii) OUFC following their presentation at the Council meeting 14.01.2013 and further shown in the Minutes of the previous Recreation Committee Meeting 19.11.12, the Committee recommends to OPC “that OUFC be absolved of their commitment to pay the costs of health and safety regulations* in connection with the ownership of the football pavilion until March 2014.”

   (‘Legionnaires check; Smoke Alarm test; Sprinkler service; emergency light test; replacement of Fire extinguishers; Five year electrical test, etc.)

   OPC to vote

   5.2 OUJFC (Junior Football) The Committee considered an email from a resident, suggesting that senior and colts pitches are also marked out for junior football, allowing the much used, winter and mud-sodden junior pitches some respite. After consulting with OUFC we considered this proposition was not feasible.

   5.3 Play Area  BT has replaced the toddler swing seats.

   5.4 Cricket Club  No report

   5.5 Tennis Club  The Committee welcome a meeting with a member of OLTC Committee to share in the discussions and the recommendations of the DVA Valuation.

   BH will seek guidance from SDC to learn if Cllr Mary Evans (a member of OLTC) would be
permitted to attend.

5.7 Petanque Club. No report

5.8 Dogs & Dog Fouling. No report

5.9 Other concerns. None

5.10 Grass Mowing. There are on-going discussions with OSA

5.11 Request for a Wedding Marquee 14m x 6m on the Ground 6th September 2014:
Committee agreed that it was not practical for the following reasons:

6. OSA:
Next meeting - Wednesday 23rd January 2013

7. Chalk Pit:
There are 3 dead ash trees. 1 has been felled. The other 2 are waiting to be felled. There is no evidence of “Ash Die-back.”

8. Hale Lane Recreation Ground and Pavilion:

8.1 Saturday 6th April was suggested for “The Official Opening Day” of the new Play Area.
The following people were suggested as possible candidates to perform the opening.
BH will contact “Silly Billy” a comedian and the favoured suggestion. Other suggestions, BH
Robert Horner (Chairman KC Playing Fields Association), Billy Callaway (a young local footballer star & coach), and possibly through Billy’s connection, a member of Charlton Athletic FC?

8.2 Wooden-Post Car Park Barrier.
BT has submitted a satisfactory quote to install 125mm dia. x 1metre high (approx.) wooden posts, spaced 1.2 metres apart, to prevent cars driving onto the recreation ground. The Committee accepted that a post and rail fence, as previously envisaged, would hinder pedestrian access to the ground.
The funding is in place and the Committee recommends the work starts as soon as practical.
The committee considered the suggestion to plant a hedge around the three sides of the play-area fence that are not facing the car park. Although aesthetically pleasing and offering additional protection against impact, the opinion taken was that it would obscure the view of Children playing. This is an important point. Children must be seen and mischief not concealed.

8.3 An update on the Lease and Hale Lane Play Area.
The final revision of the Lease is expected from SDC very soon.
The very bare areas in the play area have been turfed.

8.4 Hedge replanting.
**Tuesday 5th March 1.30pm** About 10 volunteers are required to help replant 100 hawthorn sapling required to fill-in gaps that have appeared following the Community hedge planting in November 2011.

8.5 QEII Playing fields application to progress after the new lease has been received

9. Youth Activities
OPC has allocated £500 for a “Sevenoaks Summer Family Fun Day.” These have been popular and successful in previous years. We will approach the Fete Committee to enquire if they would be willing to fund a second day.

10. Other Matters.
The Fete Committee URGENTLY NEED a treasurer!!/?? – No treasurer no Fete!!/???
HELP!!!!!!

Meeting Closed at 10:15pm

The date of the next scheduled meeting Monday 25th March 2013, 8.00pm at School House / Parish Office.

Remaining Committee Meetings dates this year: Tuesday 21st May and the following Mondays 22nd July, 23rd September, & 25th November