Draft Minutes of the Recreation Committee held on Monday 25th November 2013, 8.00pm School House

In attendance: Cllrs Mary Evans (Acting Chairman); Doug Cracknell; Jackie Howe; Charmian Marsh

Attendees: Brenda Hambrook (Parish Clerk and RFO); Mike Richards (OAA)- for the allotment item only; Brian Thomas (Grounds Maintenance Supervisor); Kay Drake (OSA)

1. Apologies: Parish Allotment Agent
2. Approval of minutes of the previous meeting 23.9.13: The minutes were approved.
3. Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda: There were no matters.
4. Allotments:
   4.1 Trees in Mill Meadow BT reported that the trees concerned are now so large that it would require major tree felling. As this is within a conservation area it is not appropriate at this time. There are some smaller saplings and lower branches which will receive attention shortly.
   4.2 Plot Tenancy Nil to report in the absence of the Parish Agent
   4.3 Request for a greenhouse on the allotments This area is in the green belt and the conservation area, and if any structure is built this should be taken on board. Concern continued to be expressed that this could become target for vandalism, and also be the start of a number of such structures on the allotments. The Parish Clerk had been in touch with Came & Co re insurance issues. If the structure is owned by the individual allotment holder it is their responsibility to insure it for both public liability and damage. It is recommended that if any structure is built, it should be of acrylic panes. It was suggested that this goes back to the OAA committee for their discussion first, with their recommendation to come back to the next Recreation Committee.
   4.4 Car Park repairs MR asked whether there would be any funding available from the Parish Council to affect repairs to the car park and track to Mill Meadow. He was advised that the OAA need to present exactly what they want to repair, along with costings and the matter would be considered at that stage. It was also noted that there is concern that in the event of OBM selling their plot access over the land to the allotments could be in jeopardy. MR and DC to look at this.

5. High Street Recreation Ground
   5.1 Report from GMS The contractor for the cricket square has put scarification detritus behind the old site screen, cricket club to be asked to move it to the bins. Also to be asked if the old site screen is likely to be used, if not could it be removed? KD asked to contact the cricket club on this matter.
   Fitness training which has taken place on the outfield, the instructor to be asked to ensure that he goes up to the top end of the ground where he was working in the summer. KD to contact him on this matter.
   One item of equipment in the play area has been damage due to teenage and adult use of the equipment. A replacement part is being sourced. Until then the item has been removed.
   5.2 Football Worming treatment has been carried out on the football pitches. The chemical used is a worm repellent, sending the worms further into the ground and does not kill them.
   It has been noted that there is another football trainer using the ground adjacent to the Otford Junior coaching on Saturday mornings. Permission has not been sought from either OPC or the OSA. This will be investigated further.
   5.3 Play Area As per BT report. An area of the soft impact surface is starting to develop moss and will need treating soon.
   5.4 Cricket Club As per BT report.
   5.5 Tennis Club Nil to report
   5.6 Petanque Club Have applied for funding towards a paved area outside the terrain.
5.7 Dogs and dog fouling A pooh marking day was held on Friday 22nd November. Only 3 were found and highlighted. None were anywhere near any of the football pitches.

5.8 Worming and worm treatment BT provided a technical report. The cricket club have also asked to have their outfield treated. In principle there is no objection, however there would be a procedural change, whereby the company applying any treatment to the area must contact the Grounds Maintenance Supervisor directly to arrange treatment, subject to ground conditions.

5.9 Multi Gym ME and CM had visited Pembury to look at their outdoor multigym. Enquiries will be made about the potential usage of a gym. The siting of on one in the Recreation Ground needs careful consideration. Discussions will be held with interested parties.

6 OSA KD requested details on how much money OPC spends per annum on the upkeep of the Recreation Ground, in order for a presentation to be made in the public forum of the next OPC meeting.

7 Chalk Pit The scouts had made good repairs to the chalk pit after their bonfire night celebrations.

8 Hale Lane Recreation Ground
8.1 BT report Nil to report
8.2 Resident’s tree overhanging swing Paul Robertson to be asked to visit and discuss with the resident

9 Youth Activities Nil to report

10 Other
10.1 Dates for next year’s meetings To be advised
10.2 Items to be considered by Nick Chard Nil from this committee
10.3 Terms of reference Deferred to next Recreation meeting.
10.4 It was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to Richard Knight for his service to the Recreation Committee. ME will arrange for a card to be signed by all members of the committee, to accompany the letter.

ME 26.11.13