Minutes of meeting of the Recreation Committee to be held on Monday 3rd March 2014, 8.00pm at School House, 21 High Street, Otford TN14 5PG

‘Civitas Vegeta et Strenua’

Committee: Cllrs. Doug Cracknell; Mary Evans; Jackie Howe; Charmian Marsh.

Present: Cllr. Edwards-Winser, Clerk, Secretary of the OSA, representatives of Otford United Football Club, Otford United Junior Football Club and Otford Cricket Club and representative of the OAA (for part of the meeting only).

1. Apologies received for absence: Cllr. Mrs Evans, Roger Beasley, Brian Thomas, Stuart Cunningham, Mike Roffey

2. The Minutes of the previous meeting on 25.11.13 were approved

3. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting not on the Agenda - None.

4. Allotments:

4.1 The allotment agent had reported that there were 6 vacant plots and three people on the waiting list. The OAA had decided that it could not agree to greenhouses on the site and the committee backed up this decision. Fencing had been damaged during the high winds as vegetation had grown against it. In some cases allotment material was still banked up against fencing and the allotment agent is approaching the relevant allotment holders.

4.2 Allotment car park repairs had been deferred to the following financial year although the OAA would carry out work on potholes in the track to Mill Meadow.

4.3 The OAA had carried out a risk assessment and this will be sent to the Clerk. Representatives of OAA and Cllr. Cracknell continued to research the right of way to the allotments. The OAA requested that the OPC grounds maintenance supervisor review again whether the trees overhanging the allotments at Mill Meadow could be reduced. Clerk to contact BT

5. OSA: The representatives of the football clubs detailed the work carried out in maintaining their pitches and the costs of complying with current regulations. The clubs are seeking a contribution towards mowing costs in the summer months when the pitches are not being used for football matches and practice. The club representatives will provide details of contributions sought.

Otford United Football Club will require a barrier round their main pitch if they are promoted. A rope barrier could be used but it is time consuming to erect and take down. Permission will be sought from OPC when required. This may need planning permission.

There is a drainage problem in front of the pavilion and the Clerk will ask the grounds maintenance supervisor to liaise with the representative of the football club to ascertain the best course of action.

Details of the plumbing system for the pavilion had been requested. The Assistant Clerk is looking into this.

Dog fouling is still a major problem for the football and cricket teams. In addition loose dogs were a problem during children’s matches and training. It was considered that the situation could be improved by requiring dogs to be on leads. Cllr. Edwards-Winser will contact SDC to ascertain how this could be enforced.

Otford cricket team were satisfied with current arrangements for mowing. Their representative pointed out that they could be asked to leave their league if visiting teams had to pay for parking.

6. High Street Recreation Ground

6.1 The report of the grounds maintenance supervisor was received.

6.2 Football - as in 5 above

6.3 Play Area - the roundabout is not working correctly and will have to be dismantled and
6.4 **Cricket Club** - the representative of the cricket club had cleared grass cuttings and will liaise with the contractors to ensure that cuttings are correctly disposed of.

6.5 **Tennis Club** - Cllr. Cracknell had not been contacted re the proposed lease and rental offer. No update had been received re weed killing.

6.6 **Petanque Club** - The proposals for surfacing the area around bench including materials and their transportation across the recreation ground were received and the committee recommended that they were approved at the next Council meeting. **OPC to vote**

6.7 **Dogs & Dog Fouling** - as in 5 above

6.8 **Multi-Gym** - Cllrs. Mrs Marsh and Mrs Evans had visited two sites and **were meeting with the resident** who had organised a petition for this.

6.9 **Mowing** - Two quotes had been received and one contractor had not replied. Cllr. Edwards-Winser suggested that the Clerk contacted Sevenoaks Town Council to ascertain if they could quote. Subject to this the County Landscapes quote was recommended to the Council. **OPC to vote**

6.10 **Other matters** - Cllr. Mrs Marsh had liaised with SDC to obtain family fun days on 14th April, 4th August and 27th October and they will be advertised on the Sevenoaks Chronicle and the church and Council newsletters. The Village Hall had been booked on these days in case of bad weather.

7. **Chalk Pit:**

7.1 There was nothing to report.

8. **Hale Lane Recreation Ground and Pavilion:**

8.1 The report of the Grounds Maintenance Supervisor was received. **The Clerk will follow up the complaint to Sutcliffe re the unsuitable log which they installed in the playground.**

8.2 A request from SDC for completion of monitoring and evaluation form re Big Community Grant had been received. **The Clerk will arrange for its completion.**

9. **Youth Activities**

9.1 Nothing to report. This item will be deleted from the agenda in future.

10. **Other**

10.1 Issues to be considered by KCC member, Cllr Nick Chard were held over to the next meeting.

10.2 Discussion of terms of reference were held over to the next meeting.