

Otford Parish Council Minutes of the Recreation Committee 6.10.14

Present: Cllrs Cracknell, Evans, Howe, Fothergill; Parish Clerk, Brian Thomas. Cllr. Marsh, Roger Beasley(OAA), Mike Richards (OAA), Kay Drake (OSA) for part of the meeting only.

1 Apologies - None

2. The minutes of the previous meeting on 23.6.14 were approved.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting and not on the Agenda:

7.1 Letters had now been sent to Head Teachers of the local schools re safe play issues in the play area. Notices re parents supervising their children whilst in the play area, have also been displayed.

4. There were no new declarations of interest.

5. Allotments

5.1 As allotment subs were due on 4.10.14, the current position of vacant plots is unclear.

5.2 The risk assessment is a work in progress.

5.3 A site meeting had taken place between OPC, Parish Agent and Brian Thomas. Various jobs identified as needing attention, some more urgent than others. Baths had been emptied, and will be removed and replaced, taps are to be replaced with new lockable and insulated stands – both these items were identified as part of the risk assessment. Hedges along the boundaries will be maintained more regularly, main grass paths will be cut monthly, the gate from Mill Meadow to the footpath to be replaced, the main vehicular gate to be moved to allow a separate pedestrian access, and locking of the main gate to help improve the security of the site and hopefully reduce the large number of thefts from it; overgrown allotments will be sprayed with a non-residual weed killer prior to re-letting.

5.4 It was agreed that this item be moved to the end of the Agenda and the public excluded due to the legal nature of the discussions. It was decided that the matter of allotment access should be referred to the meeting of the Council on 16th October.

6 OSA report

KD reported that neither the football club or junior football club now required permits for the car park – only the cricket club do. This will be dealt with before the beginning of the cricket season next year.

It had been reported that there has been unauthorised use of the recreation ground for a toddler boot camp. Efforts to be made to meet the organiser.

A notice for the petanque terroire was drafted by DC. Waiting to see where it can be placed, so we know what type of final notice is required.

7 High Street Recreation Ground

7.1 Grounds Maintenance report: The football clubs may ask later in the season to apply worm repellent to the pitch.

The matting at the gateway to the Rec. is breaking down. Discussion took place as to the best way to prevent further erosion.

7.2 Multi Gym – Questionnaire to Parishioners included in this month's newsletter. Concern expressed over the how to publicise it further. KD asked to include something in her village news in the Chronicle, NF to mention at the Otford Society AGM, Chronicle to be asked to come and do an item. **Questionnaire only to be completed by Otford residents.** Estimated cost up to £40,000 depending on surface to be used.

7.3 An update of works to be done to the pavilion had been received.

8 Chalk Pit

Concern over some of the ash trees around the edge, we need to wait until spring to see if they have succumbed. The grass will need to be cut before the Scouts bonfire night celebrations.

9 Hale Lane Recreation Ground and Pavilion

Sutcliffe's who installed the equipment had now visited the site and admitted that the problem with the faulty item in question is down to a manufacturing default. To be replaced at no cost to OPC. It is being manufactured at present. Concern also expressed over the wood posts installed as the guarantee/warranty is only for 1 year. It is recommended that £500 per annum be set aside for ongoing maintenance.

Notices asking parents to supervise children whilst in the play area had been ripped down. To be replaced with something more permanent.

There has been some fly tipping by the side of the pavilion and car park.

10 Youth Activities

The play day is booked for half term 27th October and the Village Hall booked in case of inclement weather.

BH to report back from the next Clerk's meeting re the inadequate youth provision.

11 Centenary Fields

DC to look at the information and advise on whether or not it is appropriate for us to pursue for the Recreation Ground.

12 Correspondence

Various correspondence has been received.

13 AOB Nil

14 **Date of next meeting: Monday 1st December**

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