

Report of the Recreation Committee Meeting held on Monday 10th January 2011 at The Old Fire Station, Great Waltham.

1. Appointment of new chairman – Mr Steel was appointed as Chairman. Mrs Patch was co-opted to the Recreation Committee

2. Record of Members present

Chairman: Mr M Steel

Councillors: Mrs Harper, Mrs Patch, Mr Blaber, Mr Bell and Mr Micklem.

Also Present: Bob Jenkins and Matt Roles

3. Apologies for Absence

Were received from Mr Huggins.

4. Declarations of interests (existence and nature) with regard to items on the agenda.

Mr Micklem declared an interest in items 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

5. Public Participation session with respect to items on the agenda.

The representatives of Barnston Youth FC thanked the Parish Council for allowing the use of the Ford End Playing Field. They reported that an under 9's team and an under 10's - a total of 25 boys currently used the facilities. The representatives summarised the success of the teams. Two of the youngsters who played attended Ford End School. When the untidiness of the Parish Council's container had been drawn to their attention steps were taken to tidy up. The representatives who were newly appointed had not been fully acquainted with the terms of the agreement for use of the facilities. Having now had sight of a copy of the agreement they were aware that part related to facilities being provided by Barnston Youth FC at the ground.

6. Provision of facilities at Ford End Playing Field by Barnston Youth FC – Barnston Youth FC representatives will be present to report on this matter.

Following the statements made at the Public Open Session it was agreed that the most urgent requirement was that of storage of equipment away from the Parish Council's container. Barnston Youth FC agreed to pursue the provision of storage facilities at Ford End Playing Field for the commencement of the 2011/12 season.

Meanwhile the arrangement to store equipment in the container belonging to the Parish Council would continue for the remainder of the season. At the end of the season the equipment would be cleared, with the exception of the line marker which was the property of Great Waltham Parish Council. Suggestions of likely sources of financial assistance would be provided to the Barnston Youth FC. Barnston Youth FC was encouraged to make use of the Parish News for news relating to the club.

7. Allotments.

Mr Micklem declared an interest.

(a) Report of current situation regarding allocations and vacant plots. -the clerk reported that all allotments were allocated. There were no vacant allotment and five applicants on the waiting list. It was understood that an allotment may become available in March 2011.

8. Children's Play Area- Great Waltham -To consider the next phase/project to be completed in the coming financial year 2011/2012.

Mr Micklem declared an interest.

The clerk reported that an application for grant had been made to the Community Initiatives Fund. The application would be considered by the panel on 15th February 2011. Mr Bell indicated that if successful he and Mr Huggins would visit a site to view the Wicksteed Pick Up Sticks equipment in situ.

9. To consider the quotations received for the grounds maintenance contract for the two years commencing 1st April 2011.

Mr Micklem declared an interest.

The clerk presented the results of the three quotations received for the grounds maintenance contract for the two years commencing 1st April 2011. Following consideration of the results it was agreed to continue the grounds maintenance contract with MD Landscapes who had successfully undertaken the works for the past two years without problem.

10. Electricity Consumption, Changing Rooms, Great Waltham

Mr Micklem declared an interest.

The clerk and Mr Bell reported on the monitoring of the electricity consumption at the changing rooms. The results so far were inconclusive and it was agreed to continue monitoring to establish if it were possible to achieve savings.

11. To consider requirements for Maintenance of Playing Fields/recreation Grounds during 2011/12

Mr Micklem declared an interest.

The clerk reported that there was a budget of £400 for maintenance of playing fields and recreational areas for the financial year 2011/12. The clerk called for committee members to put forward a list of items which they felt would require attention in 2011/12. The clerk would then arrange for competitive estimates to be obtained to carry out the works on a pick and mix basis if required. The quotations would be considered at the next Recreation Committee meeting.

Items put forward were:

- (a) Howe Street Playing Field – weed and feed (estimated cost £115)
- (b) Great Waltham Recreation Ground football pitch – rolling
- (c) Great Waltham Recreation Ground football pitch – football pitch spiking
- (d) Great Waltham Recreation Ground – topsoiling and re-seeding of goalmouths at end of season.
- (e) Weed treatment of new footway from changing rooms to children's play area.

12. Modification of the Multi Play Unit at Howe Street Playing Field

Mr Micklem declared an interest.

The clerk summarised the situation. Following the ROSPA inspection of the unit 13th May 2010 a report was issued as indicating that there were low risk items which required to be addressed. A quotation received from Playground Services in October 2010 indicated that these were in the region of £560. At the Recreation Committee Meeting on 4th October it was agreed 'The modification of the Multi Play Unit at Howe Street would be deferred until other modifications to the unit were explored'. Since October two quotations had been obtained to carry out modifications to add a fireman's pole to the tower and a climbing rope to the ramp with the required additional safety surfacing being provided. The estimated cost of the modifications excluding the repairs required is between £1700 and £1800.

It was agreed to apply for a grant from Essex Environmental Trust for 50% of the £1,800 to modify the equipment to make it more exciting and appealing to the children. The Parish Council would meet 50% from the Capital projects budget. The cost of the repairs required would be funded from the Parish Council budget for provision, repair and maintenance of recreational equipment. 2011/12 budget £1236.