

Report of the Recreation Committee Meeting held on Monday 3rd October 2011 at The Old Fire Station, Great Waltham.

In the absence of Mrs Patch, Mr Steel took the chair.

1. Record of Members present

Mr. A Micklem, Mr M Steel, Mr S Huggins, Mr A McDevitt, and Mr J Bell.
Also Present Mrs A McDevitt

2. Apologies for Absence

Were received from Mrs Patch and Mr Leyde

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

Mr Micklem declared an interest in item 5.

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

There were no items raised by members of the public.

5. Allotments.

Mr Micklem declared an interest

(a) Report of current situation regarding allocations and vacant plots.

The clerk reported that there was currently one vacant allotment at Bury Lane and three applicants on the waiting list all of whom were awaiting allotments at the Brookmead allotment site. It was further reported that the vacant allotment would be advertised in the November Parish News.

(b) To consider applying for a grant for water to be laid on to Bury Lane and Brookmead allotments.

The clerk had obtained information from Little Waltham regarding the ongoing costs of supplying water from the mains at allotment sites; the allotment site at Blasford Hill, Little Waltham being similar in size to the Brookmead allotment site. The information suggests that if water were supplied to a stand pipe where water could be drawn by watering can or by hand-held hose pipe (but not connected a sprinkler device or any other form of device) then the rental for each plot would increase by between £1 and £1.50 per rod per annum.

The clerk had drafted a letter to be sent to allotment tenants. The draft had been circulated to Recreation Committee members. The wording of the letter was approved subject to further wording to indicate that the Parish Council would make a decision based upon a simple majority of those who respond. The letter would stress the importance of responding. The letter would be issued shortly

6. Plans for the provision of facilities at Ford End Playing Field by Barnston Youth FC.

The clerk had emailed the club to seek information regarding the proposed storage facilities to allow a planning application to be made. Mr Bob Jenkins had indicated that he would come back to the Parish Council regarding this but so far there had been no response regarding the installation of storage facilities from Barnston Youth FC.

It was understood that some equipment was being stored in the Parish Council's storage container.

Mr Bell suggested that the cost of a separate container was too expensive.

Discussion developed to consider the future of Ford End Playing Field. Mr Bell stated that the field was a Parish Council asset and its use should be promoted. He further suggested that the Parish Council may wish in the long term to provide basic facilities at the field in the form of a portacabin funded by grants.

Reference was made to a previous discussion which had concluded that the residents of Ford End should be consulted about the future use/development of Ford End Playing Field. Ian Leyde had undertaken to write an article for the Parish News and he would be reminded of this.

It was agreed to contact Barnston Youth FC to find out what is going on as regards the storage facilities.

7. Children's Play Area- Great Waltham -To consider the next phase/project to be completed

The clerk summarised the position with regard to the order which had been placed with Playground Services Limited on 21st June 2011 for the Wicksteed product Pick Up Sticks 6. (subject to Wicksteed providing an external inspection report by an independent test by other than Wicksteed themselves to indicate that the equipment has received BS EN1176 certification). To date the external inspection report was not to hand and the order had therefore not been progressed. Latest information indicated that the TUV inspection report would be available in November 2011, having first been promised in July.

The Committee considered the implications and delays which had taken place and in the knowledge that the grant expired on 31st March 2012 felt that alternative equipment should be investigated.

Mr Bell and Mr Huggins undertook to investigate other play equipment.

The clerk would enquire whether there was any further news regarding the TUV inspection from Wicksteeds.

8.To make arrangements for the removal of prickly shrubs from the hedge adjacent to the Mini Soccer Pitch at Great Waltham Recreation Ground.

Mr Bell undertook to mark up the shrubs for removal following leaf fall.

9. Extension of Ford End Playing Field Car Park.

The clerk reported that the planning application had been prepared and was now ready for submission to CBC Planning department. The application included both the proposed extension to the car park and the siting of an additional container for storage of equipment for Barnston Youth FC should this be required.

10. To consider the provision of additional play equipment at Ford End Playing Field.

Discussion questioned whether there was a demand for further play equipment to be installed at Ford End Playing Field. It was felt this matter could be deferred until some demand was expressed.

11. To consider items for inclusion in the 2012/13 budget.

There were no additional items put forward for inclusion in the 2012/13 budget other than those which would normally appear.