

Report of the Recreation Committee Meeting held on Monday 4th April 2011 at The Old Fire Station, Great Waltham.

1. Record of Members present

Chairman: Mr M Steel

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

2. Apologies for Absence

There were none

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

Mr Micklem declared an interest in items 5,7,8,9,10,12 and 14.

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

There were no members of the public present

5. Allotments.

Mr Micklem declared an interest.

(a) Report of current situation regarding allocations and vacant plots. -the clerk reported there was currently 2/3 unallocated allotments. There was no waiting list. Publicity would be given regarding the availability of allotment areas.

(b) Letter from Mrs B Smith regarding erection of sheds on Brookmead allotment. – the letter appealed against the decision made by the Parish Council to refuse the application to erect a shed on the allotment allocated to Mrs B Smith. The letter indicated that two other plots which had sheds on them were of an area of less than 10 rods. The letter suggested that one plot was 8 rods and the other 5.7 rods. The letter indicated that the tenant found the decision for refusal unfounded. It was suggested that if it was the case that to have a shed tenants paid for 10 rods even though they did not have that area then Mrs Smith was prepared to also pay for 10 rods. It was further suggested that the lock up provided for tools to be stored was inadequate now that there were more allotment holders, and mentioned that security of equipment was an issue. Mrs Smith was also puzzled by another allotment tenant being allowed to erect a very large white piped structure measuring 18ft x 40ft on a 2.5rod allotment.

The clerk and Mr Micklem had measured some of the plots and it was reported that there was some disparity in size.

Following discussion it was agreed that all allotment plots should be measured for record and to allow consideration to be given regarding the size of the plot upon which sheds, greenhouses or the keeping of chickens could be permitted.

It was noted that the allotment agreement required the landlords written permission for the qualifying area to be reduced in size.

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

The clerk reported that a grant of 100% - £8430 had been allocated by the Community Initiatives Fund towards the provision of additional play equipment at the Great Waltham Recreation Ground Children's Play Area. Mr Bell, Mr Huggins and the clerk had visited Barnes Farm Junior School on 4th April to view the Wicksteed Pick Up stick 6 which had superseded the Pick Up Sticks 5, the latter having been withdrawn because of failure to comply with current safety standards. The Pick Up Sticks 6 required a greater area of safety surfacing and the total cost was therefore £232 more than the previous quotation.

It was agreed to proceed with the project . The next stages were agreed as follows:

- To check out the siting of the Pick Up Sticks 6.
- To check out the safety standards of the Pick Up sticks 6
- To seek the approval of the youngsters to the installation of this equipment

7. To consider the quotations received for additional maintenance works to recreation grounds.

Mr Micklem declared an interest.

Three quotations had been received for the following works.

(a) Howe Street Playing Field, Parsonage Lane, Howe Street. Weed and Feed Treatment to the complete area.

(b) Great Waltham Recreation Ground, South Street, Great Waltham CM3 1DF – area of the football pitch – rolling.

(c) Great Waltham Recreation Ground, South Street, Great Waltham CM3 1DF – area of the football pitch - spiking

(d) Great Waltham Recreation Ground, South Street, Great Waltham CM3 1DF – weed treatment on new footway laid between the changing rooms and the children's recreation area.

(e) Great Waltham Recreation Ground, South Street, Great Waltham CM3 1DF - Topsoiling and re-seeding of goalmouths at the end of the playing season.

(f) Great Waltham Recreation Ground, South Street, Great Waltham CM3 1DF -Weed treatment to newly laid paths between South Street and the children's play area partly made up from type 1 material kerbed and partly with ground reinforcement material in-filled with gravel.

The quotations were compared. It was agreed that (a), (b) and (c) should be further investigated by Mr Bell with MD Landscapes and M Freeman and Sons regarding the processes and equipment to be used and an order(s) placed as felt to be suitable.

Items (d) and (f) would be considered at a later date, if required.

Item(e) would be dealt with by the football clubs at the end of the current playing season.

8. To consider the provision of a litter bin close by the public seat sited at the hedge adjacent Hatchfields on Great Waltham Recreation Ground

Mr Micklem declared an interest.

The clerk presented two litter bins for consideration as follows:

(a) Iles – Knight Open Top £166

(b) Glasdon – Admiral 85lites £120.86.

It was agreed to ask Pleshey Forge for the costs of manufacture of a litter bin capable of being secured into the ground and tough enough to take a blow from a football.

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

Mr Micklem declared an interest.

The outcome of the expression of interest made to the Essex Environmental Trust was awaited.

10. How to minimise maintenance of earth area to side of new path in car park to Recreation ground

Mr Micklem declared an interest.

Following consideration and discussion of various suggestions it was agreed that the strip should be covered with a weed suppressant material and covered with gravel.

11. Great Waltham Recreation Ground Mini Soccer Pitch including the purchase of one/two portable goalposts.

Mr Bell reported that he had explored the provision of portable goals which he had found to be very expensive and had now ruled this out as a solution. Mr Bell reported that he had inspected the mini soccer pitch which had been re-sown last Autumn and indicated that it was not recovering as successfully as required. Mr Freeman had suggested that top soiling and re-seeding of the area was required and that this should be carried out very soon.

Mr Freeman had given a quotation. It was agreed that a second quotation was required. It was agreed to move the mini soccer pitch across the main football pitch for the summer to allow the Mini soccer pitch to recover. Mr Bell, Mr Steel and the clerk would meet to look into this.

12. Purchase of additional goal sockets for goals at Ford End/Howe Street/Great Waltham

Mr Micklem declared an interest.

A quotation had been obtained from Pleshey Forge for two round sockets 18" long £15 each.

Two elliptical shaped sockets 18" long £25 each.

Approval was given for a total expenditure of £80.

13. Barnston Youth FC – to consider renewal and terms of the agreement to continue youth football being played at Ford End Playing Field.

This item was withdrawn

14. Use of Great Waltham Recreation ground and Changing rooms for football in the 2011/12 season

Mr Micklem declared an interest.

It was reported that both the United Chelmsford Churches FC and Walnut Tree FC were interested in the use of the facilities at Great Waltham Recreation Ground for the 2011/12 season.

15. Ford End Playing Field - To consider the feasibility and cost of providing a building that would be suitable to be used as a changing room and store by football clubs that is connected to main services such as water and drainage.

This item was withdrawn