

Report of the Recreation Committee Meeting held on Monday 4th January 2010, at Great Waltham Village Hall.

1. Appointment of new chairman (item was taken after item 7 below)

Following some discussion on the role of the Chairman of the Recreation Committee Mr Bell agreed to continue in the post until the new committee was appointed in May 2010.

2. Record of Members present

Chairman: Mr J Bell

Councillors: Mrs Harper, Mr Huggins, Mr Micklem and Mr Steel.

Also present: Marc Ryan (Chairman), Martin Jones (Assistant Manager and David Turrell (player and Treasurer all representing the United Chelmsford Churches FC (UCC)

3. Apologies for Absence

Were received from Mrs Dickinson.

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

Mr Micklem declared an interest in items 6, 7, 8 and 9.

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

There were no members of the public present

6. To report the demise of the Ravens FC's use of Great Waltham Recreation Ground.

Mr Micklem declared an interest.

The Clerk reported that the Ravens FC had informed the Parish Council that the Mid Essex League have accepted the club's resignation from the competition. The club had thought that they would be able to fashion a side for this year, but unfortunately, insufficient players with the right character had been gathered to make this work. The club was disappointed to exit Saturday football and would therefore not be needing use of the facilities at Great Waltham in future. Ravens FC concluded by thanking the Clerk, Mr Bell and Vic Smith in particular for the help, assistance and support given over the years and to the committee at large for welcoming us to Great Waltham.

This was received as an item of report.

7. To consider the use of Great Waltham Recreation Ground for football fixtures by the United Chelmsford Churches.

Mr Micklem declared an interest.

Mr Marc Ryan on behalf of United Chelmsford Churches FC (UCC) gave a presentation on the club indicating that over the past few years UCC had built up a strong relationship with Ravens FC and other neighbouring clubs. A number of their players had also represented Ravens in previous years. UCC is a Christian Club based in Chelmsford, and welcomed players who are not Christians. The club's aim was to enjoy playing football in the right spirit. The Club's management is made up mainly of committed Christians who endeavour to run the club on this basis. The club asks all our players and people linked to the club to be sympathetic to this aim and has a strict Code of Conduct to which all players and people linked to the club are asked to commit themselves to before signing for the club. The club endeavours to maintain a highly professional standard in everything it does, not only on the football front but by not tolerating bad language by both players and supporters and by cleaning up any rubbish such as plastic bottles etc that may be left pitch side. The club believes that this attitude and extra effort has enabled it to win the Sportsmanship Award on several occasions. The club would wish to make Great Waltham the home of United Chelmsford Churches Football Club and build up a strong relationship with the Parish and community. Mr Ryan stated that over the past few seasons the club had been very impressed with the facilities and ground Great Waltham Parish Council has offered Ravens and would like to apply for the use of the facilities for the use of the first team who play in the Mid Essex League on Saturday afternoons.

The Chairman and members of the Committee then discussed with the club representatives present some of the problem areas which had been experienced over past years by the use of the facilities and the clerk went through the current agreement point by point, following which any questions raised by either party were answered.

The United Chelmsford Churches FC then reaffirmed their wish to use the facilities.

The Committee agreed to the use of the facilities by the United Chelmsford Churches FC on Saturday afternoons for the remainder of the 2009/10 season.

8. Allotments.

Mr Micklem declared an interest.

(a) Report of current situation regarding allocations and vacant plots. - the clerk reported that all allotments were allocated apart from 3.5 rods lost to vegetation – some clearance works would be arranged as soon as access could be gained. There were currently nine applicants on the waiting list.

9. To give consideration to the construction of a pathway to the children's play area at Great Waltham Recreation Ground using the budget of £1250 included in the 2009/10 budget estimates.

Mr Micklem declared an interest.

Further discussion took place on the project regarding the route of the pathway and the type of materials to be used.

The discussion resulted in a programme being planned as follows

Stage 1 – To provide a pathway from the changing rooms directly to the children's play area using inlaid matting (subject to a suitable material being obtained and advice being sought on laying the material)

Stage 2 – To provide a pathway through the Great Waltham Recreation Ground Car Park, adjacent to the hedge on the southern edge of the car park using type one material retained in position by a concrete edging.

Stage 3 – Subject to the suitability of the material used at stage 1 to provide a pathway from the Hatchfields entrance.

It was agreed to arrange site meetings with Boddingtons, the providers of the inlaid matting to discuss and obtain a quotation for stage 1. It was also agreed to meet with J.F. Knight, groundworks to discuss and obtain a quotation for stage 2.

10. Children's Play Area – Great Waltham – Progress report on additional play equipment project. – Mr Huggins reported that the adventure trail had been installed and the three towers on the mound were nearing completion. The modifications to the existing tower had yet to be carried out and the springers and cone climber installed. The weather conditions had resulted in delays in the installation programme and it was hoped that the works would recommence shortly.

11. Children's Play Area- Great Waltham -To consider the next phase/project to be completed in the coming financial year 2010/2011.

Mr Huggins indicated that the children were talking about a climbing item, and produced diagrams and a quotation for a summit dome play feature named Ben Nevis, manufactures by Wicksteed Leisure, which gave a range of seven climbing modules that integrate to form three progressively challenging climbing units. The quotations received ranged between £6505 and £9122 dependent upon the safety surfacing selected (and the amount required).

Discussion took place upon which year the equipment should be provided and it was agreed that it would be provided towards the end of 2010/2011 subject to the required finance being obtained.