

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

1. Record of Members present

Chairman: Mr J Bell

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

2. Apologies for Absence

Were received from Mr Steel and Mrs Dickinson.

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

Mr Micklem declared an interest in items 5, 8, 10 and 13.

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 that all allotments were allocated. There were no vacant allotment and six applicants on the waiting list. A letter had been sent to one tenant whose plot was not being attended to.

6. Provision of a building that can be used as a changing room, storage facility and toilet facility at Ford End playing field.

It was agreed that a letter would be sent to Barnston Youth Football Club asking what their intentions were in providing facilities at Ford End Playing Field as mentioned in the Licence for Use of the area granted in 2009.

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

Mr Bell and Mr Huggins gave information on playground equipment provided by Wicksteed as follows. A quotation had also been obtained for the items.

Option 1 – To remove train and replace with Pirate Boat elsewhere on the site – install Ben Nevis Summit Dome Climber – bark fixed – Total cost £8079

Option 2 – Pick Up sticks 4 including safety grass below – Total Cost £7516

Option 3 – Netscape Mizzenmast including safety grass below – Total cost £7786

Mr Bell indicated that he had viewed the Netscape Mizzenmast at Shalford and indicated that it appeared to be a static cone climber. For this reason this unit was discounted.

Following discussion it was agreed to obtain a quotation for the Ben Nevis Unit with safety grass beneath and a second quotation for a Pick Up Sticks 5 with safety surfacing beneath.

It was then agreed that the clerk would apply for a grant from the Community Initiatives Fund for the cost of the most expensive option less the £2000 contribution from the Parish Council.

Mr Bell and Mr Huggins would continue to explore the options with the pupils of the local primary school.

8. To review progress to date of the provision of a footpath through the car park and from the changing rooms to the play area

Mr Micklem declared an interest

The clerk reported that a grant of £2,600 had been received from the Big Lottery. The Parish Council had £2,500 in its budget.

A specification for the construction of the footway across the car park had been prepared and would be issued to three contractors with a closing date of 31st October 2010.

Mr Micklem volunteered to carry out the following works on an 'at cost' basis:

To remove the Sycamore tree stump, and clear hump and vegetation at the entrance to the new path across the car park, in preparation of contractors work. To construct the path from the gate to the changing room concrete pad including the requirement for a sub base to allow vehicles to pass over the area. To carry out works to install pathway from concrete pad to children's play area.

The estimated cost of each of the elements of the pathway construction was reported and it was now possible that the overall cost would be below the £5,100 grant and Parish Council funding.

Mr Bell instigated a discussion on the subject of the proposed surfacing of the footway across the car park. Mr Bell proposed that a second quotation should be requested for a tarmac finish. The

proposal was put to the vote. It was agreed to ask for quotations using crushed stone surface only as previously agreed.

The clerk was authorised to progress the works within the budget allowed.

9. To consider quotations for the repairs required to children's play equipment following the inspection by ROSPA.

Invitations to quote for repairs to the children's play equipment had been sent to four contractors. Only one had responded. The overall cost of the works was £1440. The clerk reported that the budget for provision, repair and maintenance of recreation equipment for £2010/11 was £1236 of which £262.47 had been spent leaving £973.53 remaining.

It was agreed to remove the power washing of the wet pour surface at Ford End from the quotation and to arrange for the handy person to attend to this. It was also agreed to remove the repairs to the wet pour area below the tower at Great Waltham Recreation Ground as this was considered low risk. Mr Bell would arrange for the goalposts at Howe Street to be moved and reset. The modification of the Multi Play Unit at Howe Street would be deferred until other modifications to the unit were explored. The clerk was authorised to seek a revised quotation and take action as necessary.

10. Modifications to Multi Play Unit at Howe Street Playing Field

Mr Micklem declared an interest

Mr Bell indicated that he wished to install a fireman's pole (or similar) as had been done to the wooden tower at Great Waltham Recreation Ground. Mr Bell reported that he had been in touch with Adventure Playgrounds and was awaiting their response.

It was agreed that Mr Bell would seek quotations for the modifications from Adventure Playgrounds and Playground Services and present to the Council for approval.

11. Top Soil/Reseeding goalmouths at Ford End Playing Field and Howe Street.

It was agreed that Mr Bell would obtain costs and present to the Parish Council for approval.

12. To consider the grounds maintenance contract requirements with effect from 1st April 2011.

The grounds maintenance contract specification was reviewed and agreed. Invitations to quote would be sent with a closing date of 30th November 2010 to allow the responses received to be considered by the Recreation Committee on 4th January 2011.

It was also agreed to obtain a quotation from MD Landscapes for Hedgecutting at Bury Lane/Barrack Lane allotments by hand as a separate matter

13. Additional Litter Bin - Great Waltham recreation ground - next to new seat Hatchfields side.

Mr Micklem declared an interest

The clerk reported that the current year's budget for litter bins was overspent by £87.65. It was agreed to recommend that an estimated amount of £250 be put forward for inclusion in the 2011/12 budget.

14. Review any projects currently included within budget.

There were no items raised under this heading.

15. To consider any capital projects in the forthcoming year that need funding or additional funding and other expenditure so can be considered by Finance Committee and included/excluded in precept for 2011/2012 if agreed.

It was recommended that the following items be put forward for consideration:

Fireman's pole at Howe Street- (cost to be confirmed see item 10 above)

Weed and Feed at Howe Street Playing Field - £115

Roundabout or similar at Ford End Playing Field – Total cost £6,000 part funded by grant and to be included in the financial year 2012/13