

**OLD CATTON PARISH COUNCIL, MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD AT 7.30 P.M., ON THURSDAY 13th JUNE, 2002,
AT THE PAVILION, CHURCH STREET**

PRESENT: Mrs P Mattocks – Chairman
Mr S Dunn Mr K Leggett Mr M Vincent Miss P Wilkin

APOLOGIES: Mrs G Masdin Mrs A Riches Mr B Sabberton-Coe
Mr D Thompson

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting.

277. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 9.05.2002.

The minutes had been confirmed and adopted by the Council on 30.05.2002.

278. MATTERS ARISING

278.1. Damage to wall and fence at play area at Church Street Recreation Ground. The new fence had been built and was very satisfactory. Mr Macro, the neighbour, had demolished the old wall and fence, a free skip had been obtained to dispose of it, and the new fence built immediately. Mr Macro had agreed to make a contribution of half the cost of the new fence.

278.2. Bus shelter. The new bus shelter for Spixworth Road had been ordered.

279. RECREATION GROUNDS AND CEMETERY

279.1. Fencing at Church Street Recreation Ground. The second contractor had failed to provide a quotation in time for the meeting and it was AGREED to defer the matter until the next meeting.

279.2. Damage to shed roof at Church Street Recreation Ground. The cement asbestos roof of the old tractor shed had been damaged by vandals and repaired at a cost of £125.00. An estimate of about £550.00 had been obtained to re roof the shed with corrugated metal. It was noted that when planning consent had been obtained to build the brick garage only a part of it had been built, and that the building could be completed to provide secure storage. It was AGREED to defer consideration of re-roofing the old shed until it had been inspected and the plans to extend the garage reviewed.

279.3. Replacement slide in play area. It was AGREED that the slide should be replaced, as planned, despite the lack of grant aid from Broadland District Council. Some members were concerned about the safety of the concrete foundations although the engineer who carried out the safety inspections had not found any fault with them. It was AGREED to check on removal of the existing concrete foundations and the height of the new foundations.

279.4. Matters raised at the meeting with Recreation Grounds Supervisors. The Councillor members of the Recreation Grounds Management Committee had met with the

Supervisors on 6th June. The notes of the meeting, with action taken in italics, are attached.

It was AGREED to obtain quotations for basic and vandal resistant hand driers.

It was AGREED to consider additional play equipment for older children at budget time, and to bear in mind the probability that the safety inspector would condemn the 'big' swings in the near future.

279.5. Churchyard, gate to Church Hall. It was noted that this gate was in a poor state. The Parochial Church Council would be asked if the donor of the gate was known.

280. VILLAGE HALL TOILETS, PROGRESS REPORT

Listed Building planning consent was still outstanding but it was known that Broadland District Council was unlikely to object as it had been fully consulted. The bodies to whom applications would be made for grant aid needed three months to deal with grant applications. It was therefore necessary to get on with preparation of detailed plans and obtaining competitive tenders as a matter of urgency. It was AGREED to instruct the architect to proceed in this way irrespective of confirmation of Listed Building consent.

281. WAR MEMORIAL

281.1. The builder had not yet returned to site to carry out the work for Mr Buxton.

281.2. Mr Johnson had quoted to make the seats in the sum of £465.00 each, this was more than the cost of a ready made seat. The Old Catton Society and an anonymous donor had offered to pay for the seats but had not been given a price. It was felt that Mr Johnson's seats would be of better quality and more suitable for future repairs and maintenance. It was AGREED to ask the donors if this price was acceptable and if it was not to ask the Council to meet any shortfall, in addition to bearing the cost of fixing the seats.

282. TO CONSIDER A NEW COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

The attached report was discussed. Members were generally in favour although Mr K Leggett was concerned about increasing the number of committees. The meeting dates proposed were considered and members felt that the proposed Planning and Property Committee should be held on the second Thursday rather than the first Thursday of each month. The matter would be discussed again before making a recommendation to Council.

283. CHEQUES, PAYMENTS AND COMPARISON WITH BUDGET

The attached list of vouchers numbered 86 to 124 was approved, and comparison with the budget noted.

284. CORRESPONDENCE

The attached list was received and discussed as follows:

Item 1. Mrs B Staff had offered her services as a governor of White Woman Lane School.

There had not been any other applications although another enquiry had been made. As two members knew Mrs Staff and thought she would be a very good governor it was AGREED to appoint Mrs B Staff as the minor authority governor for White Woman Lane School.

Item 2. The vacancy for a minor authority governor at Lodge Lane First School was noted. This was because Mrs Crook's term had finished and she did not seek reappointment. It was AGREED to wait and see if any other applications were received as a result of the Newsletter.

285. NEWSLETTER

There had again been problems with delivery, with part of Sprowston receiving newsletters and there not being enough left to complete delivery in Old Catton. However, apart from this problem, the delivery had been good. The contractor had apologised and offered to reduce his bill. The method of delivery would be reviewed before the next edition but it was acknowledged that a better method would cost more.

286. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Mr D Thompson and the Clerk had met with the Highways Inspector and residents of St Faiths Road at its junction with Fifers Lane on 11th June to look at recent damage to the listed wall and to discuss ways to avoid further damage. The Highway Authority's suggestions were awaited.

There being **no further business** the Chairman thanked everybody for attending and closed the meeting at 9.45 p.m.

Chairman, 11.07.2002