

OLD CATTON PARISH COUNCIL, MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE PLANNING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE,
HELD AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2005,
AT THE PAVILION, CHURCH STREET

PRESENT: Mr B Sabberton-Coe – Chairman
Mr C Green Mr D Little Mr M Vincent
Miss P Wilkin

APOLOGIES: Mr B Leggett , Mr K Leggett Mrs G Masdin
Mr D Thompson

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting.

28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

29. PLANNING

29.1. The list of planning applications was considered and recommendations made to the Planning Authority, Broadland District Council, as noted on the attached list. There was concern about the application for change of use of the gallery at 4 Park Close (which had been the rackets court) and it was AGREED to object to the application and enquire about its status a potentially listed building of historical importance.

30. MINUTES OF 8.8.2005

The minutes were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

31. CHURCH STREET RECREATION GROUND

31.1. Hedgecutting. When the hedges adjacent to Garrick Green had been cut some damage had been done to a neighbour's shed roof. Norfolk County Services, the contractors, had rectified the damage but had said they would not cut the hedge again unless it acquired some more suitable equipment. Discussion took place about how the hedge could be maintained in future. It was not possible for the Council's staff to cut the top of the hedge safely unless its height was reduced considerably. The matter would be discussed at a future meeting.

31.2. Safety surfacing in the play areas. The sand pits under the play equipment had been refilled, following a safety inspection. As usual soft building sand had been used. This had cost £300.00 for the 15 tonnes. The sand had been quite yellow and because the weather had been dry had not been washed by rain. Four complaints had been received about children's clothing being stained and one resident had suggested the sand be replaced with silver sand or rubber type surfacing.

The only source of silver sand identified had been B & Q where it was sold in 25 kilo bags. It was estimated this would cost at least £1200.00. It was understood that the sand had a real play value and was very popular with the children; also the number of complaints had been very small bearing in mind

the numbers using the area.

It was AGREED to mention the safety surfacing in the next newsletter and ask for residents' views and also to obtain prices for wet pour safety surfacing.

31.3. Meeting with Representatives of the Junior Football Club (OCJFC). The minutes of the meeting were considered and decisions made as follows –

- **Storage.** The Club had recognised the need to provide a storage facility for its equipment and had asked if the Council would allow it to site a shipping container, preferably 30' by 8'6", at the Recreation Ground behind the old tractor shed. Members thought this was a very good idea and AGREED to recommend it to the Council subject to drawing up a proper agreement about its use, insurance and maintenance. There was no objection to it being lit and it was agreed that it should be dark green and enquiries made as to whether it would need any foundations or a base.
- **Hard training area.** The Club was keen to support an improved facility as it would give the opportunity to increase the number of training sessions and stop the disruption caused by bad weather. However, to meet the needs of the Club the area would need to be at least double the size of the existing area.

Members felt that this would not be possible at the Recreation Ground and were also concerned that the type of surface that would attract major grant aid could not be available for general free use. It was AGREED to let the school know the OCJFC's views and to suggest that the school consider providing the large facility on its site and letting it to the OCJFC in order to pay its running costs; also that the Council might be able to contribute to such a scheme.

It was AGREED to prepare a scheme for improvements to the existing training area by resurfacing, renewing the fencing and lighting, and to investigate the cost and grant availability.

- **Five a side weekend.** A fairground ride had been responsible for the major damage to the field and had only made a small profit for the event. It had been agreed that a joint meeting with the OCJFC would be held on 22nd November to discuss the terms and conditions for a future event. A formal contract for hire would be agreed by the Committee.

31.4. Cricket sight screen. The representative of the Cricket Club had been unable to attend the Recreation Ground Committee meeting. Although it had been agreed that the sight screen could be stored securely at the Recreation Ground there were still only two sections there and a sight screen had not been used at all during the season. It was AGREED to write to the Cricket club asking it to clarify its position about the sight screen. It was feared that the sections would deteriorate as they were currently stored.

32. WOODHAM LEAS AMENITY LAND

The serious problems neighbours were suffering were fully acknowledged and members hoped to be able to change the area in such a way as to inhibit the playing of inappropriate ball games. Various options were discussed and it was AGREED to consider a scheme of landscaping with shrub beds and trees being planted to enhance the area and at the same time protect the fences of neighbouring properties from balls.

It was AGREED to consider a plan and budget at the next meeting with a view to planting in November. It was AGREED to ask that the necessary funds be vired from

the Church Street Recreation Ground budget and to apply to Broadland District Council for grant aid under the Parish Tree Warden scheme.

It was AGREED to write to the neighbouring residents to keep them informed of this decision.

33. LAVARE PARK

Two panels in the fence around the play area had to be replaced as they had been damaged, also the litter bin. Orders had been placed.

34. CEMETERY

- 34.1. Improvements to entrance. The building work was practically complete.
- 34.2. Group for bereaved relatives. It was AGREED to try to arrange the first meeting for Monday 14th November 2005 at 8.00 pm, following a short Committee meeting at 7.00 pm. If numbers were likely to be large this meeting would be held at the Village Hall or Church Hall. It was AGREED to ask the Reverend Terry Patient to chair the meeting. The meeting would determine if the relatives were interested in being consulted about future developments or improvements at the Cemetery and its care and maintenance.
- 34.3. It was AGREED that a late ex resident of 18 years, who had moved from the Village 12 months ago, could be buried and charged at the residents' rate. This decision was not intended to create a precedent; any future requests would be considered individually on their merits.

35. CHURCHYARD

- 35.1. Damage to west wall. The Council's insurers were dealing with the claimant's insurers.
- 35.2. Future maintenance. An extra cut had been carried out by the Garden Guardian and had drastically reduced the height of the grass in the flat areas and cut back all the tall weeded areas. A ride on mower had been demonstrated and seemed useful for cutting the flat areas. If a ride on mower were to be acquired its security would be important as the Bier shed at the Churchyard had been broken into after the demonstration.
- 35.3. The Garden Guardian had been asked to quote to carry out regular cutting of the flat areas next year. It was AGREED to consider contract cutting of the flat areas when a quotation was available at the next meeting. This would enable more time to be spent on the difficult areas using the existing equipment and contractor.

36. WAR MEMORIAL

- 36.1. Wreaths. A quotation for a rack for the poppy wreaths was still awaited; it was AGREED to authorise the Chairman and Clerk to accept a reasonable price and to put the work in hand.

37. NOTICE BOARDS

- 37.1. Replies had yet to be received from the shops who had been asked to sponsor a notice board at their premises.
- 37.2. It was AGREED to provide a new notice board at Norman Drive. The board would be in two sections, one open for public use and one glazed and locked for Council use. The order would be placed on Greenbarnes Ltd. for a board of man made timber, 1270 x 868 mm, with an engraved header. The price would be in the region of £700, plus installation costs.
- 37.3. Spixworth Road. It was AGREED to investigate the possibility of placing a suitable notice board inside the bus shelter next to the Deer Park.

38. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

A copy of the Police statistics for speed of traffic at Church Street was noted. It was AGREED to defer discussion until the results of the current survey, by Norfolk County Council, were available.

39. CORRESPONDENCE

- 39.1. The attached list was noted.
- 39.2. E on Energy offered a new contract for supply of power to the street lights at £499.91 per month for 24 months. The old contract, which had been negotiated by a consortium that had ceased trading, had been £290.58 per month. It was reluctantly AGREED to accept the new contract and it was noted that this might be increased when the inventory was updated to show the new lights installed recently.
- 39.3. SLCC Conference at Mildenhall on 22nd November. It was AGREED that Miss P Wilkin and the Clerk would attend; if other members wished to attend they should let the Clerk know.

40. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 40.1. Mr M Vincent referred to the meeting held on 8th September with members of the Parish Plan Focus Group. He felt it was important for all members to discuss the adoption of the Action Plan together. The Finance and Policy Committee had already decided to agenda the subject for its next meeting. It was AGREED to ask that all members be invited to attend that part of the meeting and to emphasise the need to study the Action Plan before the meeting; a version showing action already taken would be circulated with the agenda.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everybody for attending and closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.

Chairman14th November 2005