

Report of the Grounds Committee to the Parish Council

The Committee met at 8.39 pm on **Monday 22nd June 2009**, in Committee Room 1 at the Parish Hall, Great Baddow. Cllr T Miller chaired the meeting.

Present: Cllrs T Miller, Mrs D Ronaldson, K Ronaldson, Mrs V Sadowsky, A Sosin, Mrs J Sosin and Mrs C Shaw.

In Attendance: The Clerk of the Council
 The Administrative Assistant

163/09 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S Martin, the Grounds Manager and the Deputy Grounds Manager.

164/09 Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of personal or prejudicial interests.

165/09 Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present.

Cllr A Sosin left the meeting at 8.41pm.

166/09 Minutes

The minutes from the last meeting held on 23rd February 2009 were signed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr T Miller and seconded by Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson.

Cllr A Sosin re-entered the meeting at 8.46pm.

167/09 Clerk's Report

The Clerk circulated a report updating the following items:

1. Pathways in Noakes Place

This matter is still outstanding and will be progressed as soon as possible.

2. Tennis Court Fencing

The Clerk has checked the accounts and nothing was budgeted in the 2009/2010 financial year for the replacement of fencing around the tennis courts. The Clerk advised the meeting that the areas of fencing that were in poor condition had been replaced, but the replacement of the remaining fencing had not been considered a priority. It was also noted that due to costs the kickboards around the courts have not yet been replaced.

3. Tennis for Free

Following the discussion about raising the awareness of the Council's facilities, posters for the tennis courts have been produced and will be displayed during this week. Cllr C Shaw asked if the Parish Council would be hosting a free Tennis day, as it had not been contacted to take part in Chelmsford Borough Council's Play Tennis scheme on 11th July 2009. The Clerk advised that posters were being produced advertising that Tennis facilities at the Recreation Ground would be free of charge on this date, and these posters will be displayed as soon as possible.

4. Noticeboard at Toddlers Play Area

The new notice board has been installed.

5. S106 Monies

Chelmsford Borough Council has still to be approached about the use of S106 monies for projects within the Recreation Ground and Noakes place. Cllr T Miller asked whether any progress had been made with regards to the installation of seats in the Sensory Garden and at the Rothmans Avenue entrance to the Recreation Ground. The Clerk advised this matter is one of the projects that that may be funded by S106 monies and is to be discussed with Chelmsford Borough Council.

6. Play Equipment in the Recreation Ground

The new play equipment was installed in April 2009. The Administrative Assistant was thanked for taking publicity photographs, which appeared in the latest edition of the Weekly News.

7. Red Diesel

With the Council's decision to purchase the triple gang mower, the matter of the red diesel has largely resolved itself. Red diesel will continue to be kept in the tank and be used for mowers etc. The tractor can be filled up at the local garage.

168/09 Recreation Ground

➤ To discuss S106 monies with particular reference to an outdoor gym and skateboard ramp.

Cllr A Sosin raised concerns about the remaining timeframe the Parish Council has in which to spend certain S106 monies received. Cllr Sosin also suggested that a new skateboard ramp should be located on the site of the old ramp and also asked if the Parish Council might consider providing a piece of equipment that also caters for BMX riding. The office will investigate prices for skateboard ramps and the possibility of facilitating BMX riding, and present a report to a future meeting.

➤ To receive an update report on the possible siting of an Outdoor Gym in the Recreation Ground

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting detailing a site visit to the Recreation Ground between the Grounds Manager, the Administrative Assistant and Chris Elms of Fitness Found. The report outlined two areas had been identified at the site meeting as suitable locations to site an outdoor gym. It was agreed to conduct a public consultation with Recreation Ground users to establish the potential demand within the parish for an outdoor gym. A questionnaire will be drafted and presented to the next meeting on 27th July 2009.

➤ To discuss a procedure for the reporting of incidents to the police by members of staff

The Clerk told the meeting that it has come to her attention that not all incidents of vandalism or antisocial behaviour have been reported to the Police by the Grounds Staff. In one particular instance this has resulted in the Parish Council being unable to make an insurance claim for damage caused by vandalism. It was proposed by Cllr T Miller and seconded by Cllr Mrs J Sosin that all incidents of vandalism or antisocial behaviour must be promptly reported directly to the Police by the member of staff who finds the damage and a copy of any paperwork and any incident number must be forwarded to the Parish Council office for filing.

169/09 Lawn Cemetery

To consider a request for a tree at Lawn Cemetery

A letter had been received relating to the replacement of a memorial tree at the Lawn Cemetery. It was agreed to grant the application for a Crab Apple tree in replacement of a Eucalyptus tree that has since died.

170/09 Great Baddow Cricket Club

The Clerk informed the meeting of correspondence received by the Parish Council from the England and Wales Cricket Board relating to the installation of cricket practice nets at the Recreation Ground. The England and Wales Cricket Board has advised that the Great Baddow Cricket club must obtain a formal licence or lease agreement on the land with the Parish Council to allow the project to continue. It was proposed by Cllr T Miller and seconded by K Ronaldson to offer a licence agreement to the Cricket Club for a period of time agreeable to both the Parish Council and the England and Wales Cricket Board. The licence agreement must be drawn up by the Parish Council's Solicitor and the Cricket Club will bear the cost.

171/09 Meadgate Play Area

The Committee discussed potential locations for a new playground to be sited, but none of the areas suggested at the meeting were considered suitable. It was agreed that the Parish Council should contact David Archer at Chelmsford Borough Council with a view to working in partnership to locate a new site for a play area in Meadgate.

172/09 Roundabout

A request had been received from a member of the public for further planting on the roundabout in Maldon Road. The Clerk advised that there are several issues relating to soil quality, lack of watering facilities and sightline restrictions, which limit the planting options on the roundabout. Cllr A Sosin has consulted RHS Hyde Hall and has obtained a list of dry garden plants, which will be forwarded to the Grounds Manager. The Clerk will also find the documents relating to a planting plan for the roundabout that was drawn up several years ago by the previous Deputy Grounds Manager.

173/09 Luxfield

Following the presentation of a report and recommendation at the Grounds meeting of 23rd February 2009, a site visit was organised on Thursday 9th April 2009. Cllr A Sosin told the meeting that he felt that fencing would not be appropriate on most of the boundaries of the site. The Clerk advised that if the site were left to continue to grow wild it would eventually become impenetrable. It was agreed although the Parish Council had been previously concerned with marking the boundary of the site, it was now agreed that the site would not be fenced. A maintenance schedule will be drawn up to preserve the site in its current condition. A progress report will be presented to the Grounds meeting on 28th September 2009.

174/09 Matters for Information

- Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson reported to the meeting a damaged wooden post on the kerb opposite to the entrance to Gilmore Way.
- Cllr A Sosin reported that the disabled parking bay markings in Buckleys car park have worn away.

It was resolved under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to close the meeting to the public and press for the following item

175/09 Noakes Place

The Clerk advised the Committee that the Licence Agreement relating to Noakes Place will expire on 31st March 2010. Chelmsford Borough Council will be approached about renewing the licence.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.25pm.

Signed.....Dated.....