

# **Report of the Grounds Committee to the Parish Council**

The Committee met at 8.40 pm on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July 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, B Heelis and Mrs C Shaw.

In Attendance:       The Administrative Assistant  
                          The Grounds Manager  
                          The Deputy Grounds Manager  
                          Two Members of the Public

## **250/09 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Martin, A Sosin, Mrs J Sosin and Mrs M Miller (substituting for Mrs J Sosin).

## **251/09 Declarations of Interests**

There were no declarations of personal or prejudicial interests.

## **252/09 Public Question Time**

One member of the public spoke about unsightly vandalism and graffiti on the play equipment and youth shelter in the Recreation Ground and in other areas of the village. Cllr T Miller advised that this is a persistent problem at the Recreation Ground and that the Grounds Staff deal with any incidents of vandalism and graffiti promptly. Cllr Miller also advised that Chelmsford Borough Council's Squad can be contacted for the prompt removal of graffiti and vandalism in other areas of the village.

## **253/09 Minutes**

The minutes from the last meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2009 were signed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr T Miller and seconded by Cllr K Ronaldson.

## **254/09 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk circulated a report prior to the meeting updating the following items:

### **1. Pathways in Noakes Place**

This matter was discussed with Chelmsford Borough Council and written confirmation about what method of repair may be employed has now been received. As this has taken some time to sort out, another inspection of the paths will take place and recommendations about what work needs to be done will be an agenda item for the September meeting

### **2. Tennis for Free**

It has already been reported to a previous meeting that the Tennis for Free Day, promoted independently this year by the Parish Council, had been very well attended.

### **3. S106 Monies**

A meeting took place on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2009 with an officer from Chelmsford Borough Council about the use of S106 monies and this will be covered in item 6 a) of the agenda.

**4. Great Baddow Cricket Club Practice Nets**

Following the meeting in June, the Clerk informed the Cricket Club and the England and Wales Cricket Board of the Council's decision about the granting of a licence. However, it would now seem that there are additional points that need to be considered. The Clerk is currently investigating these issues and it is hoped that the matter will be referred back to the September meeting of the committee.

**5. Meadgate Play Area**

The Clerk has not yet contacted David Archer at Chelmsford Borough Council but will do so as soon as possible.

**6. Roundabout**

The plans drawn up some years ago have been found and the matter is being considered by the Grounds Manager and recommendation will be made to the September meeting.

**255/09 Recreation Ground**

➤ **To report on a meeting with Chelmsford Borough Council about the spending of S106 monies**

A report had been circulated by the Clerk detailing a meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2009 with an officer of Chelmsford Borough Council to discuss the spending of S106 monies. The officer confirmed that a skateboard ramp, outdoor gym and the installation of seats in Noakes Place near the sensory garden and in the Recreation Ground near the Rothmans Avenue entrance, would all be acceptable projects for the S106 monies. In addition to this it was recommended that part of the monies from the Etric development should be used to treat the ponds with Aquaplankton. It was also agreed that the Clerk would write to Chelmsford Borough Council to notify them that the first payment of monies from the Etric development has been used to replace play equipment in the Recreation Ground.

It was proposed by Cllr T Miller and seconded by Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson that the installation of seating in the Recreation Ground and Noakes Place be considered a priority and progressed as soon as possible.

➤ **To agree a draft questionnaire on the possible siting of an Outdoor Gym in the Recreation Ground**

A draft questionnaire had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Administrative Assistant advised that although the closing date for the consultation would be Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2009, any late submissions could still be accepted. It was suggested that copies of the questionnaire should be handed out at the Meeting of the Youth Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2009.

It was proposed by Cllr T Miller and seconded by Cllr B Heelis to approve the questionnaire to be circulated as soon as possible.

➤ **To further consider a request by the Kings Head FC about football pitch hire**

The Clerk had advised in a report circulated that the hearing of the Kings Head FC's appeal is scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> July 2009. It was agreed to defer

this matter to the Full Council meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2009, pending details of the outcome.

➤ **To consider the potential siting for the bench removed from Meadgate Play Area in the Recreation Ground**

The Clerk had advised in a report circulated that the siting of this seat in Noakes Place would be inappropriate as Chelmsford Borough Council has a preferred style of bench for use on its land. The Committee suggested that this bench could be placed either by the entrance to the Recreation Ground from Rothmans Avenue or on the area of land between the Groundsmen's office and the Millennium Centre, underneath a tree.

➤ **To receive a letter from Great Baddow Bowling Club regarding the installation of lighting**

The Clerk had circulated a report detailing several issues that would need to be addressed before the Parish Council could consider giving consent for any proposed work. It was agreed to accept the Clerk's recommendation and a response will be sent to the Bowling Club outlining these issues. The matter of pathway construction would be considered during the budget process in September.

**256/09 Noakes Place**

➤ **To consider a report from the Principle of Writtle College about the maintenance of the ponds in Noakes Place**

The Clerk recommended in a report circulated that the Council consider acting on the advice given by officers of Chelmsford Borough Council to treat the ponds with Aqauplankton and to obtain quotes for part dredging. Chelmsford Borough Council will provide contact details of contractors to approach for quotes for the dredging. It was agreed to accept the Clerk's recommendation to purchase Aquaplankton and proceed with obtaining the quotes.

➤ **To consider a request for a change of fencing at the Foxholes Road entrance to Noakes Place**

The Clerk had circulated a report giving details of a consultation with local residents undertaken two years ago, following a similar request. At that time there was no consensus from the residents about what action should be taken and the matter was not progressed. It was proposed by Cllr T Miller and seconded by Cllr K Ronaldson to accept the Clerks recommendation to repeat the consultation, and for the results to be reported back during the budgeting process. A reply will be sent to the resident advising him of the consultation and of the proposed work to be carried out on the ponds in Noakes Place. It will be advised that the treatment of the ponds with Aquaplankton and the research into quotes for part dredging form part of ongoing efforts to improve these ponds.

**257/09 Bench outside St Mary's Church**

A quote had been received for both the refurbishment and replacement of the bench outside St Mary's Church. It was noted that the current bench in this location as particularly large, and as a result of the high cost indicated in the quote, it was agreed that quotes should be sought for a smaller bench of a similar type along with suitable ground fixings. The matter will be reported back to the Highways and Amenities Committee meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

**258/09 Matters for Information**

- Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson reported to the meeting of a raised kerb causing a trip hazard outside the Church of Latter Day Saints in Baddow Road. Cllr Ronaldson also told the meeting that she had received a report of three loose kerbstones on the corner of Whitehouse Crescent and Meadgate Avenue, next to the flats and asked for both reports to be forwarded to the Highways Authority.

*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*

**259/09 Noakes Place**

The Administrative Assistant advised that following the meeting between the Clerk and an officer of Chelmsford Borough Council on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2009, the renewal of the licence agreement for Noakes Place is being progressed and further correspondence is awaited.

It was noted that following discussions earlier on in the meeting, issues relating to the maintenance of the pond edgings should be included in the lease negotiations with Chelmsford Borough Council.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.45pm.

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