

OVING PARISH COUNCIL

RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held in the Reading Room, Bowling Alley, Oving at 7pm on Tuesday 22nd April 2008.

Present: Roger Ball (Chairman)
Ambrose McGinn (Chairman, Oving Parish Council)
Jack Peeters (Chairman, Oving Tennis Club)
Philip Shuffill (Oving Football Club)
Richard Parrott (Oving Villages Cup)
Clive Swindlehurst (Walton Wanderers FC)

1. Apologies for absence: None.
2. Declaration of interest in items on the Agenda: None
3. Minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 25th September 2007.

Matters arising: 9. A bronze plaque in memory of Peter Tombs was unveiled in the pavilion by his widow, Mollie, before the Oving Villages Cup Final on Easter Monday, 24.03.08.

Other matters are covered by this Agenda.

4. Recreation Ground usage and safety.

The football pitch and pavilion have been used regularly throughout the season by Oving FC and Walton Wanderers FC. Occasional requests from North Marston FC to play friendly matches have also been accommodated. It has been agreed that Granborough Charter Fayre may play a charity match on 1st June at a discounted fee of £40.

The pitch has been in poor condition in recent weeks due to abnormally heavy rainfall, but is now drying out. The floodlights failed a month ago, and **Philip** is investigating the cause.

A lady Tennis Club member slipped on the railway sleeper at the entrance to the courts during the wet weather, and had to be taken to hospital with spinal injuries. She is expected to make a full recovery. Roger visited her at home, and she is not contemplating any legal action. Gripper rails were immediately nailed onto the sleeper, and it was agreed that no further action needs to be taken.

Ambrose suggested that the football posts should not be taken down during the

summer so that local youngsters could make use of them informally. As the Football Club would like to re-seed the goalmouths, it was suggested that the posts could be sited at the far end of the pitch near the corner flag. This will require the construction of new sleeves for the posts. **Roger and Philip agreed to investigate costs.**

It was noted that a tree-house had been constructed at the far end of the Recreation Ground. No action required at present.

5. Up-date on proposed new pavilion.

Jack reported that his Location and Design Group had met nine times, and hoped to be in a position to make a firm recommendation to the Annual Parish Meeting on 20th May. The likely cost is in the region of £300/350,000. Roger will be applying for major grants from WREN and the Football Foundation. In the meantime, local fund-raising events are being organised. A most enjoyable race night at Quainton has raised £1,700.

6. Apportionment of Recreation Ground running costs.

It was agreed that contributions towards running costs for the season 2008-2009 would be as follows:

Oving Tennis Club – 10% of pavilion costs (water, electricity, telephone)
Oving Football Club – single payment of £315 (increase of 5% on current year)
Walton Wanderers FC - £50 per match (same as current year)

Invoices will be issued in September to OTC and OFC.

7. Football pitch mowing and maintenance.

Roger is now keeping a record of all future fixtures on the football pitch, and this makes it much easier for him to arrange mowing when appropriate. Jack asked that strimming of the play area should not take place on Wednesday evenings (Club nights) and **Roger will arrange this.**

Richard will arrange for weed-killer to be applied within the next few weeks.

8. Oving Football Club and Oving Villages Cup.

Philip reported that the Club had suffered a poor season, with a recent string of defeats leaving them on 5 points at the foot of the table. However, the Club has an enthusiastic squad with some promising youngsters coming through. There is some talk of re-structuring the league following the withdrawal of a number of teams.

Richard reported that Steeple Claydon won the Villages Cup 6-0 against Long Marston on a poor pitch on Easter Monday. The Committee appreciated the gesture of

the bronze plaque for Peter Tombs. A minute's silence was observed by players, officials and spectators before the match in memory of Peter and Fred Rickard, a Vice President of the Competition.

9. Oving Tennis Club.

Jack reported that the courts have been re-surfaced, and there is a proposal to build a modest new club-house adjacent to them, with water, electricity and drainage facilities. This follows some opposition to the proposed siting of the new pavilion. The matter was addressed by Jack and Ambrose at a special meeting of the Tennis Club Committee, and it is hoped that members have now been re-assured that the new pavilion would be of considerable benefit to them.

10. Walton Wanderers Football Club.

Clive reported that the Club is likely to finish mid-table in its first season. Facilities at Oving have been much appreciated, and it is hoped to continue playing here next season. The Committee was pleased to agree to this request.

11. Date of next meeting.

Tuesday 23rd September 2008 at 7pm in the Reading Room.

RCB 28.04.08