

**OLD CATTON PARISH COUNCIL , MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
RECREATION GROUNDS COMMITTEE
HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2011,
AT THE PAVILION, CHURCH STREET**

PRESENT: Chairman – Miss P Wilkin
Mr C Green Mr B Leggett Mr B Palmer Mr B Sabberton-Coe

Miss M Booty – Tennis Club
Mr K Brown and Mr M Bulmer – Junior Football Club
Mr A Jones – ATV Bowls Club
Mr J Cooke – Cricket Club

APOLOGIES: Mr D Thompson, Mr J Dickerson – Wensum Bowls

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting.

20. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 21.10.2010

The minutes, which had been adopted by the Council were confirmed, and signed by the Chairman

21. REPORTS OF THE SPORTS GROUPS

21.1. Tennis Club. Miss Booty did not have much to report, the club had not been able to play much due to the bad weather. The Club had about 12 members playing on Wednesday afternoons and Friday evenings and about 9 on Tuesday evening. The club asked that the Council indicate the likely level of fees in October so the Club would have the opportunity to comment before the fees were fixed.

21.2. ATV Bowls Club. Mr Jones reported that the club was looking forward to the new season and would be holding its AGM on 17th March. He would be liaising with the Wensum Bowls Club about the furnishings for the new building, which had to be capable of being detached from the building. Mr Jones was planning to hold an open afternoon again to try to recruit new players for afternoon leisure bowls. He was very grateful to the Council's groundsman and supervisor who had emptied the old hut ready for its demolition.

21.3. Cricket. Mr Cook reviewed the 2010 season. The Club had been using its own equipment to roll and cut the wickets immediately before matches which had improved the state of the wicket. The Club had applied to Sport England for a grant to enable it to set up a junior section who would train on a Sunday morning.

21.4. Junior Football Club. Mr Brown reported that the Club had lost significant time for matches and training; it was not satisfied that cancellation had always been justified. Some managers had felt that the MUGA was not fit for use as the black lines were slippery.

22. CHURCH STREET RECREATION GROUND

22.1. Dates for beginning and end of playing seasons.

It was noted that the last football match at Church Street would be on 17th April with cricket beginning on 30th April 2011. As usual the football season could be extended at Lavare` Park.

22.2. New bowls and cricket building.

It was noted that work would begin the next day.

22.3. Other matters.

It was noted that the work to repair the flood damage was almost complete.

23. NORFOLK VILLAGE GAMES

The Chairman welcomed Mr Steve Hulme, the Rural Sports Development Officer with Active Norfolk, to the meeting; the initiative was funded by the Sport England Rural Community Fund. Mr Hulme outlined the things that he could organise which included

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- Inter Village Competitions
- Organising various sports in or out of the Village
- Organising a road show to show people what might be possible
- A bursary to pay 75% of costs of coaching courses
- A small bursary to pay a Village Sports Co-ordinator

Mr Hulme answered questions from councillors and representatives. Individual groups would approach him directly about coaching bursaries.

It was AGREED that the Council would discuss the ideas outlined and then let Mr Hulme know how it wanted to proceed.

24. LAVARE PARK

17.1. Extension to the park.

It was noted that the Council planned to have three big pitches at Lavare` Park and mini soccer pitches at Church Street Recreation Ground.

25. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED to meet on 17th October 2011.

The Chairman thanked everybody for their attendance and closed the main meeting at 8.20 pm, she invited the representatives of the JFC to stay to discuss football related matters in more detail.

26. FOOTBALL

Mr K Brown outlined the Junior Football Club's current thinking on the way that football should be played in future. The Club agreed that it would be preferable for Lavare` Park to be used for big pitches and Church Street Recreation Ground for mini soccer. The Club wanted to have four big pitches at Lavare` Park but the groundsman had advised that there was only enough room for three pitches allowing for the 30 metre buffer zone dictated by the planning consent. In two years time it would be compulsory for the under 11 and 12 years old groups to play nine a side on smaller pitches, like the one currently used at the Church Street school. The Club was very concerned about the quantities of dog excrement at Lavare` Park and the lack of security there.

Mr Brown went on to say that the Club had sidelined its desire for a community building at Lavare` Park and wanted to discuss taking over the whole ground for a period of at least 25 years, making the site secure by fencing and locking it and improving the pavilion to make a shelter for spectators, and selling refreshments. It was suggested that all training would take place there.

Members were surprised to hear these ideas but were happy to discuss them further. It was felt that if agreement was reached it would not be possible to make all the necessary arrangements in time for the 2011/12 season. The extent of the land that might be fenced would be discussed again as it was felt that the play area should continue to be open to the general public.

Mr Brown undertook to inform the Council of the Club's proposals from its next Managers' meeting on 7th March so that the Planning and Property Committee could discuss the proposals at its meeting on 14th March.

It was noted that the proposals would affect the current plans for the 2011/12 season which would have to be reviewed so that a permanent arrangement was not pre-empted.

It was confirmed that the Council had already agreed that the very young training group (5 and 6 year olds) could continue to train at the high ground at the Recreation Ground on a Saturday morning when training for the older boys was cancelled.

The meeting then closed at 9.05 pm.

Chairman, 17th October 2011