

## RUDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING**

HELD AT ELMS PARK PAVILION, LOUGHBOROUGH ROAD ON TUESDAY  
4<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2011 AT 7.30PM

**Membership**

A	W.A. Wood	Chairman
	Mrs. B. Breakwell	Vice-Chairman
	A. Chopra	
	D.J. Hall	
	P.F. McGowan	
	Mrs. B.M. Venes	
	M. Walsh	
	Mrs. R. Wilson	

Persons absent are marked 'A'

Persons representing the Parish Council on other business are marked 'O'

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor	Mrs. M. Pell
Mrs. J.A. Goodbody	Clerk to the Council
Mrs. L.M. Cooke	Deputy Clerk
15 members of the public	

**In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman took the Chair**

The Vice-Chairman welcomed Councillor D.J. Hall back onto the Amenities Committee.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor W.A. Wood.

**DECLARATION OF MEMBER'S INTERESTS**

Councillors Mrs. B. M. Venes declared an interest in any item appertaining to the Allotments.

**MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2011 having previously been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Vice-Chairman.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT**

Allotments – Wilford Road (Paradise Gardens) (Vide Minute A. 11/889)

The Clerk reported that the shed on Allotment No. 34A had now been moved. Members noted this information.

St. Peter's Rooms – Main Hall Floor (Vide Minute A. 11/892)

The Clerk reported that a donation of £50.00 had been received from the hirer towards the cost of repairs to the main hall floor. Members noted this information.

Sellors Playing Field (Vide Minute A. 11/894)

The Clerk advised that Councillor Mrs. M. Pell had reported at the last Parish Council Meeting that the installation of the goal posts and nets had been very well received by local youngsters and were in use almost every day.

She also said that as far as she was aware, no problems had occurred since the installation of the goal posts and nets. Members noted this information.

**Councillor M. Walsh arrived at this point of the meeting**MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENTRESOLVED:

That the Committee adjourn to allow the members of the public present to make statements on Agenda items.

During the adjournment the following matters were raised:-

Several members of the public including Mr. D. Sayers, Mr. G. Aram, Mrs. B. Jacques, Mr. B. Oldfield, Mr. B. Tozer and Mr. D. Hollingworth expressed their concerns over the planning application submitted by Soar Valley Homes - Planning Application No. 11/01365/FUL – Land rear west of 218 and 220 Loughborough Road – Four detached dwellings with associated garaging.

They said that whilst the areas of concern had not changed from those raised at the time of the previous application, they had been advised that this application must be treated separately. They stressed that although the number of dwellings proposed for the site had now been reduced to four, many of their original concerns had still not been addressed by the applicant. They requested Councillors to take into consideration the following when making their observations:-

- Strongly opposed to garden development of this nature
- Access – Elms Close cannot cope with additional traffic generated from the development, including construction traffic
- Trees – damage to the roots/canopies of existing trees, especially the two walnut trees. Some trees have TPOs
- Development is within the Conservation Area
- Drainage – drains/sewers on Elms Close are privately owned
- Surface water – development will exacerbate existing problems with excess surface water

- Wildlife – environmental survey is inaccurate and was carried out at an inappropriate time of year for a true reflection to be gained. Area is well established haven for wildlife and must be preserved

## **COMMITTEE IN SESSION**

### **A. 11/897 DEVELOPMENT**

#### **New Applications**

That the observations contained in Planning Schedule 661 be adopted.

### **A. 11/898 ST. PETER'S CHURCHYARD** (Vide Minute A. 11/881)

Members were advised that a meeting had taken place between representatives of St. Peter's Parochial Church Council and Councillors Mrs. B. Breakwell, Mrs. B.M. Venes and W.A. Wood on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2011 in the Churchyard primarily to discuss the proposal by the Church to submit a joint application with the Parish Council to the NCC Local Improvement Scheme for various works, including the paths within the churchyard.

The Parish Council representatives stated that they were not prepared to submit a joint application to the Local Improvement Scheme as the proposed works did not, in their opinion, come under the remit of the Parish Council. They did, however, agree to provide a letter of support to their application, copies of which had previously been circulated to Members.

Although the question of memorials within the churchyard was raised, this was not discussed as a response from the Vicar had not yet been received.

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the above information be noted.
2. That the Committee approves the letter of support sent to by the Clerk to St. Peter's Church dated 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

### **A. 11/899 WAR MEMORIAL** (Vide Minute A. 11/882)

The Clerk reported that no further action had been taken with regard to meeting Ben Percival from Ernest Smith Monumental Masons. She explained that the reason for this was because County Councillor Reg Adair had suggested that the Parish Council submits an application to the the NCC Local Improvement Scheme for possible funding towards repairs to the War Memorial, and if successful, the necessary works would be assessed and overseen by the County Council.

The Clerk advised that the Suggestion Form for the Local Improvement Scheme had been signed by County Councillor Adair and submitted to the County Council before the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011 deadline. An

acknowledgement had been received which advised that all scheme suggestions received will be considered during January 2012, following which County Councillor Richard Butler (Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability) will make the final decision on the list of schemes programmed for implementation during 2012/2013. The Parish Council will be contacted again in April/May 2012 to be advised of the outcome of its suggestion.

RESOLVED:

1. That the above information be noted.

Trees in War Memorial Grounds

The Clerk reported that she had received an email from, and had been in discussion with, George Fearn on behalf of the Ruddington Branch of the Royal British Legion asking if the growth on the lower part of some of the trees could be trimmed sufficiently high enough from ground level to allow Standard Bearers to perform the 'carry' movement which occurs during the Remembrance Service, both before and after the Standards have been dipped during the Last Post, Silence and Reveille.

The email also advised that Mr. Hicks, the Branch Chairman, had offered to meet the groundstaff at the War Memorial with a Standard to point out the offending trees and ascertain the exact height to which branches should be trimmed.

The Clerk reported that she had discussed this matter with the groundstaff, who had advised that they would be hiring a chipper in early November for other tree work and would carry out the work at the War Memorial in plenty of time before the Remembrance Service.

Members noted the above information.

A. 11/900 RISK ASSESSMENTS/HEALTH & SAFETY

The Deputy Clerk reported that the Disability Discrimination Act says that if services or employment opportunities are being provided, they must be provided on an equal, non-discriminating basis to disabled and non-disabled customers or employees. Facilities and opportunities for disabled people must not be provided to a lesser standard than that being offered to non-disabled people, or be offered in a way which is impossible or unreasonably difficult to the disabled person to use.

She advised that toilet facilities are part of the services and facilities we provide at Parish Council venues and therefore we are required to provide a non-discriminatory facility for people who are disabled. Whilst St. Peter's Rooms, Elms Park Pavilion and Jubilee Clubhouse do provide a non-discriminatory facility for people who are disabled, the Village Hall does not have such a facility.

The Clerk mentioned that several years ago it had been mooted to try to modify part of the gents toilets to incorporate a toilet for use by disabled persons but this had not been pursued.

It was suggested that the survey of the Village Hall be carried out as soon as possible and at that time the surveyor be asked his opinion as to how and where a toilet for use by disabled persons could be sited in the existing building.

### RESOLVED

1. That a survey of the Village Hall be obtained without delay.
2. That the opinion of the surveyor be sought regarding the siting of a toilet for use by disabled persons in the Village Hall.

JG

JG/LC

### A. 11/901 VILLAGE GREEN (Vide Minutes A. 11/886 & F. 11/1053)

The Clerk advised that following the Finance & Policy Committee Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September a letter had been sent to the Ruddington Medical Practice advising them that "the Parish Council had resolved that the Medical Centre, with whom the official agreement was made, be given notice that unless the re-instatement works are completed to the satisfaction of the Parish Council within 4 calendar weeks from the date of this letter it will take further action".

The Clerk reported that on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at approx. 10.15am John Hallatt (on behalf of the Medical Centre) had advised her that he had just met with the contractor and Parish Council groundstaff and it had been agreed where levelling etc was required. He said the contractors were due to return to the site within 30 mins to carry out this work.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011 John Hallatt advised the Clerk that the contractors had returned, as promised, on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011 and have been given the mobile phone numbers of the Parish Council groundstaff in order that they may be contacted regarding any problems or require clarification as to what is required. He advised that the manhole cover which was 'wobbling' and had been the cause of several complaints to the Parish Council Office was not really their responsibility, but they had looked into it and found it to be full of silt and had therefore filled it in and tarmaced it over. He pointed out that the connection point for the Parish Council, if required, is the manhole nearest the Youth Centre.

The Clerk further advised that on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2011 she received a request from John Hallatt to ask that Richard Shelbourn meets him on The Green to sign off the work done by the contractors. The Clerk advised that Richard was on holiday, but she was not prepared to authorise anyone to sign off the work at this stage as there was no guarantee that the tarmac would not sink again, or that the grass seed would germinate. John said he was with the contractor, Dr. Spencer and Susan Green (the Practice Manager) on the Green and they were keen to let the Parish Council know that they had reacted immediately to the letter sent by the Parish Council giving them 4 week's notice to carry out the

remedial works. The Clerk agreed to report to the Amenities Committee that the letter had been reacted to within the specified time, but re-iterated that she would not sign off the project at that time. She had suggested that a further meeting between John Hallatt and representatives from the Parish Council should take place in 4 week's time to check on progress in respect of germination etc. and this was agreed.

Richard Shelbourn said that although the remedial work is not perfect, in his opinion it is as close as you will get for re-instatement work and advised that it should get better over the next few weeks provided we get some rain and the seeds germinate.

**RESOLVED:**

That the above information be noted.

**A. 11/902 ELMS PARK PLAY AREA – PHASE 3 – MULTI-USE GAMES AREA**  
(Vide Minute A. 11/887)

Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell reported that following a meeting of the working group consultation had taken place with letters being hand delivered to the residents of all properties bordering the Elms Park/ Loughborough Road Playing Field. 14 written responses have been received which raise issues such as loss of parking, site security, noise, anti-social behaviour, too much equipment in one area of the village, etc.

Three quotations for the equipment/installation of the MUGA have been received – two from companies recommended by other Councils and one who contacted the Council direct – with the average cost being around £125,000. The latter has come up with some good ideas which need to be investigated.

Members were reminded that the Parish Council applied to the Local Improvement Scheme for funding in May 2010 but it was not until May 2011 that we were advised that we had been awarded £27,500 towards the cost of providing a MUGA, which had to be spent before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012. However, Jenny Kirkwood (who has taken over from Carola Jones since she retired in August) had recently advised that the County Council has agreed that this can be deferred until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 in order to give the Parish Council more time to source additional funding. It was stressed that the grant of £27,500 can only be used towards the provision of a MUGA.

Members discussed the need for a strategic plan to enable each Committee to have a vision of what it hopes to achieve over the next 5 years or so. This would ensure that applications for funding from various sources for individual projects do not jeopardise applications for other, possibly larger, projects.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the above information be noted.

2. That a further meeting of the working group be convened to progress this matter.
3. That an item be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Parish Council to discuss the future plans of each Committee and the possible production of a Parish Plan.

W/G

JG

#### A. 11/903 ELMS PARK

Copies of correspondence from a local resident and Ruddington Cricket Club had previously been circulated to Members.

The resident had complained about an incident which had occurred on an evening in August following a cricket match earlier in the day and also made reference to the fact that local youngsters had allegedly been told by some members of the cricket club that they could not use the training nets. The Clerk had passed a copy of the correspondence to Ruddington Cricket Club, who had investigated the allegations and responded to both the Parish Council and the resident. As far as is known, this matter has been satisfactorily resolved.

#### RESOLVED:

That the above information be noted.

#### A. 11/904 ALLOTMENTS COMPETITION 2011 (Vide Minutes A. 11/888 F. 11/1056)

Members were reminded that it had originally been intended to present the prizes in respect of this competition during an adjournment of the Parish Council Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011. However, it was agreed at the Finance & Policy Committee Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2011 to hold a special Presentation Evening to present the prizes to the winners of all the competitions run by the Parish Council i.e Allotments Competition, Garden Competition and the new Photographic Garden Competition.

The Special Presentation Evening will take place on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at St. Peter's Rooms commencing at 7.30pm and invitations have been sent out to all those involved.

#### RESOLVED:

That the above information be noted.

#### A. 11/905 SECURITY AT ELMS PARK PAVILION/MAINTENANCE UNIT (Vide Minute F. 11/1057)

Members were reminded that at the Finance & Policy Committee Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2011, attention had been drawn to the number of incidents/acts of vandalism which had taken place over the past few months in the vicinity of Elms Park Pavilion and the Maintenance Unit. It was pointed out that although the Police have arranged to carry out

additional patrols, and the fact that the Parish Council pays for a security patrol on several evening over a weekend, the youngsters involved seem to know when these patrols are due and go away at that time and re-appear when they have gone.

A quotation had been requested from the same company which installed and monitors the CCTV system at the Jubilee Clubhouse for the installation of cameras and associated equipment around the Elms Park Pavilion and Maintenance Unit. The reason this company had been approached was because the system had proved most useful to both the police and our own groundstaff, who had been trained how to use the system and were therefore au fait with its operation.

Copies of the quotation from Security Design Centre in the sum of £6843.87 for the installation of the system (excluding options) had been previously circulated to Members, who noted that the cameras would also cover the newly refurbished play area and the bowling green area.

The Clerk advised that the annual spend on the mobile security patrol amounted to £2340.00 during 2010/2011 and for the first five months of 2011/2012 amounts to £1071.00. She also advised that there is the sum of £55301.00 in the SPR/PF/JUB Premises Repairs and Renewals Fund.

Members discussed the quotation and agreed that in view of the fact that the nights were drawing in, which could incite increased activity in the evenings from youngsters, it was agreed that the installation of CCTV was urgent. It was also agreed that as the groundstaff, who will be operating the equipment, are familiar with the system at the Jubilee Clubhouse, which is identical to the proposed system, it would be advantageous to proceed with this system rather than obtain alternative quotations with different systems.

#### RESOLVED:

1. That an order be placed with Security Design Centre for the installation of the CCTV system at Elms Park Pavilion/Maintenance Unit as per quotation No. EM50001355/01 dated 15<sup>th</sup> September 2011 in the sum of £6843.87 (excluding options and VAT).
2. That the on-going order with Stealth Security for the mobile security patrol be cancelled once the CCTV system has been installed.

#### A. 11/906 TREES ON OR ADJACENT TO PARISH COUNCIL FACILITIES

##### Churchill Drive Open Space

Copies of a letter from the resident of a property adjacent to this area raising her concerns about 5 upright willow trees, which had been planted by the Parish Council some years ago on the boundary of James Peacock School and the Churchill Open Space, had previously been circulated to Members. The resident pointed out that over the years very little maintenance work has been undertaken apart from cutting off the lower branches to stop children climbing them and collecting debris after stormy

weather. She says the trees are lovely but they have been allowed to grow to a great height – far greater than the apex of a house.

The resident is concerned that one of the trees is close to her property and her house and outbuildings could be at risk of damage from the roots and falling branches. She asks for confirmation that the Parish Council has insurance cover in place to cover such eventualities.

Richard Shelbourn agreed to seek advice from Tom Pettit, the Officer at Rushcliffe Borough Council responsible for trees, regarding the best way to proceed.

In the meantime, the Clerk agreed to contact the Parish Council's insurers to ascertain the relevant information in order to respond to the resident concerned.

RESOLVED:

1. That advice be sought from the Rushcliffe Borough Council officer responsible for trees. RS
2. That information be sought from the Parish Council's Insurers. JG
3. That the resident be advised of the outcome. JG

Vicarage Lane Playing Field

Copies of a note from the Clerk regarding a visit to the Parish Council Office by a resident from Peacock Close whose property abuts Vicarage Lane Playing Field had previously been circulated to Members.

The resident had advised that there are two trees on the playing field near the boundary with his property, which he thinks were planted approximately 36 years ago, the roots of which are causing concern as his leylandii hedge now appears to be dying. He asked whether the Parish Council could have the trees looked at with a view to overcoming this problem. The Clerk advised the resident at the time of his visit that in her opinion it would be difficult to do anything to the roots without damaging the trees, or completely removing them.

RESOLVED:

1. That advice be sought from the Rushcliffe Borough Council Officer responsible for trees. RS
2. That the resident be advised of the action being taken. JG

A. 11/907 VICARAGE LANE CEMETERY – INTERMENT OF ASHES

Copies of a report prepared by the Deputy Clerk in respect of the interment of ashes in Vicarage Lane Cemetery had previously been circulated to Members.

The report advised that we recently had an incident where a family wished to have an interment of ashes in the Garden of Rest on a Saturday but were reluctant to pay the charge levied by a funeral director and had decided that they wanted to perform the interment themselves. It was pointed out to us by the local funeral director that there are a number of issues with this which the Parish Council should take into consideration:-

- a. The family must complete a booking form.
- b. There is no proof that the remains they are interring are the remains of the person they say they claim to be.
- c. There is no way of knowing what else they might be putting in the ash vault.
- d. They are using their own tools, etc. and there is a risk of damage to the vault and/or the plaque or even to neighbouring vaults.
- e. There is no way of ensuring that they use the allotted vault and not one of their own choosing. (We are often asked whether a family can have the vault of their choosing rather than the one allocated.)
- f. If the vault is full of sand, water or even ants, there will be no-one there to clean it and ensure that the waste materials are removed from the vault and from site.
- g. They will be doing this at a weekend when there will be other people in the cemetery. The funeral director has asked whether we should not allow weekend interments anyway – certainly they would recommend that we do not permit Sunday interments when there are usually a number of visitors to the cemetery.
- h. In the event that the family decline using a funeral director, we should consider having someone from the Parish Council in attendance to ensure that correct procedure is followed.
- i. The most frequently used funeral director charges £50 for attendance during normal hours and £75 for attendance out of hours.

Members discussed the contents of the report, agreed to all of the recommendations and suggested that these be included in the Cemetery Rules and Regulations.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That all interments of ashes in Vicarage Lane Cemetery are accompanied by either a funeral director or a member of staff from the Parish Council.
2. That a charge of £60 be levied for Parish Council staff to attend an interment during normal working hours excluding Bank Holidays and Extra Statutory Days.
3. That a charge of £100 be levied for Parish Council staff to attend an interment outside normal working hours up to dusk, subject to a member of staff being available for this purpose.
4. That interments are not permitted on any Sunday, or on Good Friday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Eve or New Year's Day.

5. That these additional Rules and Regulations be advised to local funeral directors.

A. 11/908 CASUAL BOOKINGS OF PREMISES (Vide Minute A.11/893)

Members were reminded that at the last meeting of the Committee it had been suggested that they give some thought to the possibility of paying a retainer fee to a person nominated/appointed to cover the issues highlighted. The Deputy Clerk advised that the person/s nominated could be from the existing staff with additional cover for holidays. The Clerk advised there is a mobile phone available which could be used by the person nominated. It was agreed that the Parish Council Administration Staff put together a package of ideas to be considered at the next meeting of the Finance & Policy Committee to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011.

RESOLVED:

That this matter be further discussed at the next meeting of the Finance & Policy Committee scheduled to take place on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011.

JG/LC

**Councillor A. Chopra left during discussion of the following item**

A. 11/909 BUDGET 2012/2013

Special Items to be included in the Amenities Budget 2012/2013

The Senior Groundsman suggested that the Parish Council should look into purchasing a Woodchipper as over the current year it has been necessary to hire in this type of equipment at considerable cost eg £350 per week.

Councillor D.J. Hall reported that he had seen advertised a PTO Woodchipper which can be attached to a tractor. There are two versions available which will take a trunk up to 8" diameter - one costing £1500 inc. of VAT and the other a hydraulic version at £3000 inc. of VAT. It was suggested that further investigation should be undertaken in this regard, particularly in respect of whether the existing tractor has sufficient power to operate this type of woodchipper.

The Senior Groundsman advised that Mick Dutton is also looking into obtaining quotations for the supply of a suitable woodchipper.

The Senior Groundsman reported that the existing Sprayer, which was purchased in 1990, requires replacing, particularly in view of the fact that it is now too old to obtain replacement parts. The existing independent sprayer is only suitable for use on the bowling green and cricket square and he suggested that it would be more beneficial to purchase a tractor-mounted sprayer as opposed to an independent piece of equipment as this could then be used to spray all the playing fields. He pointed out that currently spraying of the playing fields is undertaken by a local contractor.

The contributions to be made to the various Repairs & Renewals was discussed at some length and it was agreed that one or two of these should be increased.

In addition it was agreed that the budget sum for the maintenance of children's play equipment should be increased to take into account all the new equipment that has been installed over the past couple of years and which may require general maintenance in the future. The Senior Groundsman also pointed out that the bearing assembly on the existing swings at Sellors Playing Field, Vicarage Lane Play Area and Elms Park Play Area is being changed and will no longer be repairable. Therefore as and when individual swings require a new bearing assembly it will be necessary to change to the new system at a cost of £200 + VAT + labour per swing. Taking the above into account it was agreed to increase the maintenance budget for children's play equipment to £3000.

RESOLVED:

1. That the cost of purchasing of a woodchipper and a tractor-mounted sprayer be included as special expenditure in the 2012/2013 Budget. JG
2. That additional contributions to Renewals & Repairs Funds as discussed be included in the 2012/2013 Budget. JG
3. That the Children's Play Equipment Maintenance Budget be increased to £3000. JG

Charge rate for Junior Football

Copies of correspondence from the Secretary of Ruddington Village Football Club had previously been circulated to Members.

The Clerk advised that there are currently two Junior teams who are having to play in Under 18's Leagues as there are no other suitable leagues for them to play in. She reported that she had therefore agreed that, because the players have an average age of 15/16 and are still in education, those teams can pay the Junior Rate for the hire of pitches for the coming season. Members approved the action taken by the Clerk.

The Clerk suggested that the Scale of Charges for Junior Football should be adjusted to read "Under 8's to Under 18's" rather than "Under 8's to Under 16's" and this was agreed.

RESOLVED:

1. That the action taken by the Clerk to charge Junior Rate for the 2011/2012 season to the two teams playing in Under 18's leagues be approved.
2. That the description in respect of Junior Football be changed to "Under 8's to Under 18's". LC

To review the costs in respect of the use of the Village Hall for specific activities (Vide Minute A. 11/891)

Members discussed in greater detail the report produced by the Deputy Clerk which had been presented at the last meeting of the Committee. Taking into account 'wear and tear' on the floor by the various leisure activities taking place at the Village Hall it was agreed to split the charge rate into three categories:

Rate 1	Light use to include: Karate; judo; tai chi; pilates; yoga; junior dance
Rate 2	Medium use to include: Senior dance; badminton
Rate 3	Heavy use to include: Aerobics; Zumba fitness

RESOLVED:

That the future charge rates for the hire of the Village Hall in respect of the various leisure activities be separated into three categories – light use; medium use; heavy use.

LC

A. 11/910 'THE NOISE'

Copies of correspondence from Dina Morton on behalf of 'The Noise' had previously been circulated to Members. Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell advised that the event held in 2011 had been very successful and it had been hoped that the Parish Council would grant the use of St. Peter's Rooms free of charge for the 2012 event, which will be held from Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July. Unfortunately, St. Peter's Rooms is already booked for Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June, but the group have provisionally booked for Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012.

RESOLVED:

That the organisers of The Noise be granted the use of St. Peter's Rooms free of charge on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012 and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012.

LC

A. 11/911 RUSHCLIFFE COMMUNITY AWARDS 2011

Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell reminded Members that the Parish Council had taken up the invitation from Rushcliffe Community Partnership to have a stand at the Rushcliffe Community Awards taking place on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at the Becket School, Wilford Lane. She advised that whilst she would be available to carry out the preparation work and organise the display stand she would not be able to attend the event itself.

Members suggested that Councillor D.J. Hall, who had been involved in procuring the funding from the Rushcliffe Community Partnership towards the Elms Park Play Area, should assist Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell and attend the event on behalf of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor D.J. Hall attends the Rushcliffe Community Awards 2011 as the Parish Council's representative at the stand to publicise the Elms Park Play Area project and to demonstrate what can be achieved.

A. 11/912 REPORTS ON AMENITIES MATTERSPicnic Benches

The Senior Groundsman reported that following refurbishment of the Elms Park Play Area it had been noticed that many families were having a 'picnic' on the grass around the area and he therefore suggested that it would be a nice idea to install one or two picnic benches near the play area.

It was suggested that local businesses could be approached with a view to providing these benches.

Fire Risk Assessments – Fire test

The Deputy Clerk advised Members that on behalf of the Parish Council she had helped co-ordinate a full fire drill and evacuation procedure test with members of the Phoenix Bridge Club at St. Peter's Rooms. There were around 60 people in the building, many of whom were older members of the club, but they still managed to evacuate the building within 3-4 minutes of the alarm being sounded. The Bridge Club had their own procedures in place which included having a member attending each entrance/exit to ensure that no-one returned to the building. It proved helpful to both the Parish Council and the Bridge Club and the only issue raised was that the assembly point should perhaps be across the road, outside the front windows of the Co-op.

Members noted this information and thanked the Deputy Clerk for facilitating this test.

Fire Risk Assessments – Testing of equipment

The Deputy Clerk reported that whilst Parish Council staff can test the fire bells at the Village Hall, St. Peter's Rooms and Jubilee Clubhouse they are not equipped to test the smoke alarms, heat sensitive alarms and the system panels. It is therefore necessary to organise testing for these on a regular basis. Members noted this information.

Bowling Greens

The Clerk advised Members that an article had appeared in the NALC Direct Information Service Newsletter advising that Bowling Greens are to be given special protection under powers to be included in the Localism Bill currently making its way through parliament. The new powers will safeguard bowling greens from the threat of closure and development. Members noted this information.

Jubilee Clubhouse

The Deputy Clerk reported that the snagging issues associated with the building of the Jubilee Clubhouse in 2008 had now been resolved and the building will be 'signed off' shortly. The final payment to Thomas Long & Sons Ltd. will be made once the final invoice has been received.

JG

A. 11/913 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AMENITIES AGENDA

1. St. Peter's Churchyard
2. Village Hall
3. Village Green
4. Elms Park Play Area Phase 3 – Multi-Use Games Area
5. Budget 2012/2013
6. Future plans for the Amenities Committee

The meeting closed at 10.15pm

Chairman

Committee Chairman