

Minutes of the meeting of the Caldecote Parish Council Sport and Recreation Committee held on Tuesday 23rd November 2005 at 7.30pm in Caldecote Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. Christine Stopp (Chair), Paul Phillips, Frank Wolton, Alan Levett and Steve Breeze

In attendance: Sue Tasker (CSA Member), Melvin Pooley, Jane Lampshire SCDC, John Newby (member of the public) and Roger Hume (Clerk).

1. **Apologies for Absence**
Mr Jim Hill and Mr Russel Doel
2. **To approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 14th April 2005.**
On a proposition by A Levett, seconded by P Phillips the minutes were approved as a true record. The Chairman signed the minutes.
3. **Matters arising**
There were none that were not covered by the agenda.
4. **To consider matters relating to JS Bloor, Banner and Ashwell Homes POS**
 - 4.1 **JS Bloor** – There is a problem in that the turning head (near the Wilson Connolly development) has not been returned to public open space, it was felt that perhaps this situation was an opportunity to use the turning head for resident parking, the clerk was asked to write to Bloor to suggest this and to find out what they were planning to do. A planning application would be required.
 - 4.2 **Banner Homes** Nothing to report
 - 4.3 **Ashwell Development** – Nothing to report.
5. **Maintenance of POS.**
 - 5.1 **Budget items arising from maintenance of POS**
It was confirmed that MD Landscapes have been asked to carry out an initial tidy up of all planted areas, but it was not clear what if anything has been done, there is nothing specific on the bills presented, just grass cutting.

MD Landscapes have provided a quote for installation of a knee rail along the border of the flower bed by the social housing next to the MUGA, and to install 2 pathways in-between the children's play areas.
The clerk was asked to obtain 2 more quotes from other contractors using the same specification.
 - 5.2 **Litter Bins.** It was not felt necessary to provide litter bins in the play area at this time
 - 5.3 **Trees in front of the tennis court,** John Newby offered to provide a list of any trees that need attention and the clerk will write to the developer Taylor Woodrow.
6. **Youth Shelter and cycle racks,** are now installed - thanks due to "Calypso".
7. **Recreation ground – Update.**

Melvin Pooley gave a report about the sports fields, (see separate notes).

The sports fields had turned out better than all expectations and would provide an excellent facility for the village and there is now a need to set about ensuring the funding to complete the project, the cricket square and the pavilion in particular.

The chairman expressed everybody's very sincere thanks for the excellent work Mel had done for Caldecote.

The next Sport and Recreation meeting will concentrate on the pavilion provision. Jane Lampshire will be able to provide examples of others that have been built.

The precept budget will need to account for maintenance from next summer.

Mel Pooley said he would produce a draft specification for circulation to cricket ground contractors; produce a draft maintenance plan; give us (urgently) a rough idea of ground maintenance costs for inclusion in December budget discussion

8. Sports Association - Update

Sue Tasker provided an update on events. The Sports Association have introduced 8 new sport events to the village.

They had been very busy this summer, a particular success had been an open sports activity day, from some under 5's upwards, include handball, quick cricket, table tennis, golf and they had a barbecue, it is hope to have another event in May. They are also planning a sport quiz.

Currently there is a regular Sunday event for hard court games, tennis basketball and rounders. It had been difficult organising some team games as there were not enough of each age group attending.

There was a long standing agreement with Hardwick to share facilities and it is hope that this will develop.

9. Risk Assessment and Safety Inspections

Safety inspections had been carried out on playgrounds by ROSPA.

Cllr Wolton offered to do another inspection to check the current position.

- 10. Finance,** There had been a request for sports kit but the need was not thought to be so urgent now. It was felt to be more appropriate to apply for funding from grants, "Sport for all" were suggested. Consideration will be given to funding from the Parish Council when required. And allowed for in the current precept budget for 2006/7.

11. To agree the date of the next meeting

It was agreed that the meeting should be held on Tuesday 31st January 2006 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall subject to Village Hall being available.

12. Closure of meeting.

The meeting was declared closed at 10 pm

Signed ----- (Chairman) Date -----

See extra notes following

Clerks Extra Notes on Sports fields

Notes taken from Mel Pooley's explanation.

All expectations had been exceeded, everything had been achieved to a high standard by Grassform.

Some aeration will be needed in the new year to help the northern (school side) of the field where drainage is not yet very good.

Special machines had been used to bury stones and also hand walked and picked.

Two and a half thousand tons of top dressing had been applied as well as another 80 tons per acre (13 acres) later.

Mel had predicted the composition of the soils as 45% clay and he had been proved correct by lab tests as 45.2%.

Sand sets had been put in and drains were 600mm to 750mm below the surface.

It is thought that there is little silt so the drains should not block.

The Parish Council will need a maintenance schedule and an approximate costing for on going care, which Mel very kindly offered assistance.

There is room for a cricket pitch and 2 large soccer/rugby pitches depending on demand.

As well as a skatepark site and pavilion.

A questionnaire will be sent around the village possibly with the March Journal.

The football area can be altered at any time to create for example mini pitches.

It would be possible to play football on the ground for the next football season (August 2006).

Grant Funding might be easier for mini soccer currently - perhaps funding can be approached jointly with Hardwick who have more experience.

The cricket square if started at the end of August 2006 might be ready by the season 2007 but possibly 2008, it ideally needs 2 years to establish.

He recommended 8 prepared cricket squares as this was the ideal number to provide enough to rotate use and ensure a good wicket is available for play at any time.

Funding will need to be found - £25 to 30k for that alone. 6 to 7 weeks is needed for recovery of each wicket as used.

It will need a tank break to ensure the water supply to the square does not cause a contamination.

Specialists

Grassform who prepared the ground.

Kestral Golf and sports construction in Hampshire.

Steven Paske in Sheffield.

Maintenance costs are to be considered urgently, it will probably not be able to get funding for cutting grass etc, an allowance will have to be made in next years precept for the 8 month period August to March.

The Parish Council need to decide on how this will be achieved, it may not be possible to employ a suitable groundsman but training is available if anyone in the village wishes to get involved.

Equipment is expensive, a 10 bladed mower giving 130 cuts per minute is needed

Contractors can be employed they are beginning to get the expertise now. The cost of Mel's time will have to be added too to keep a watch on needs after handover.

Proscap have good equipment and Mel will provide other contacts.

Any maintenance schedule should be to PQS standards (Performance Quality Standards produced and set by Peter Drury).

We also need to consider a skate board area and of course the pavillion.