

OLNEY TOWN COUNCIL



Recreation Joint Users Group Thursday 12th March 2020 at 7pm In Room 3 at the Olney Centre

DRAFT MINUTES

In attendance

Cllr D Eley, Cllr D Bethune, Cllr S Clark, Cllr J Eley, Cllr Rawlings, Cllr Rodden, 3 local residents, 2 Allotment Association members, 1 x Netball Club member, 2 x Olney Runners, Caveman Conditioning, 1 Cricket Club representative, Vice-Chairman of Olney Town Colts Football Club, Chair and Secretary Olney Rugby Club, 1 x Tennis Club representative,

1. Apologies

Cllr Tennant

2. Ground maintenance and relationship with the biodiversity plan

Bucks Nature Trust have provided a 5-year plan for maintaining and operating open areas. Olney Town Council have committed to adopting the plans as much as possible if it doesn't affect what the users do on OTC grounds.

Rugby Club representative commented on the different areas of grass requiring different treatment due to the variation in quality in certain areas and on specific fields. E.g. Crouches field is of poor quality due to weather conditions last summer.

Cllr D Eley stated that annual soil tests need to be introduced to test for nitrate levels.

Action:

- Deputy to send plan over to JUG users ready for discussion at the next JUG meeting. Dependant on outcome, the plan will then go to Council at the following full Council meeting with a view to getting adopted by OTC.

3. CCTV

JUG users concerned about the increase in anti-social behaviour at the Recreational Grounds.

Football representative highlighted the fact that there is (at least twice a week) broken glass on the pitch which they clear up. They felt that CCTV would be a significant deterrent.

Rugby Club pointed out that there is a pole with a cable in the car park that has been used for CCTV in the past. There is currently no monitor on the post. Any CCTV located in this position would cover the whole of the car park and the back of the football stand (the CCTV would not cover the playground area).

Action:

- Rugby Club to look at existing pole and cable to see whether CCTV could be reinstated in this position and to gain indication of costs involved.
- Next JUG meeting to decide if reinstating the car park CCTV is a feasible start to installing cameras around the recreational ground. With a plan to then progress to further installation of CCTV as and when finance/time permits.

4. Off sale of alcohol

The Rugby Club explained that their current alcohol license covers the Clubhouse only. If they hold an outside event e.g. May Ball, Foodie Friday they have to purchase a TENS (temporary license) for each event.

They have therefore applied for a change of license to cover the Rugby Club patio area and the first team pitch.

It was suggested by Cllr Bethune and agreed by ORFC that they would install signs stating “no alcohol beyond this point” to discourage drinks being taken out of their boundaries and reinforce the public order ban which covers Olney to help the Police. ORFC also stated that sales would not be made from the shed into the public recreation ground.

Action:

- ORFC to install signs stating 'no alcohol beyond this point' in relevant locations once license has been issued.

5. Short and medium term plans for the MUGA

A representative from the Netball Club pointed out that due to the non-porous material that makes up the MUGA means it cannot be used for netball.

The netball Club would like somewhere outdoors that they can train throughout the summer.

The Football Club stated that they do not currently use the MUGA as a club however they expressed concerns over the 2 x goals inside the MUGA and that they are unstable and could fall over and cause injury.

The Football Club stated they would encourage an appropriate change of surface in the MUGA for multiple sports use.

Caveman Conditioning is currently using the MUGA for sessions due to the poor water-logged state of the grass in the usual training spot.

Caveman Conditioning also stated that the MUGA is not ideal but makes sure that training is static so as to prevent/minimise the risk of injury.

Action:

- 2 x goal posts in the MUGA need immediate repair. The netting needs removing, and the posts need fixing into position to prevent any injury. OTC Groundsmen to temporarily fix
- Netball representative to bring costings/details at next JUG meeting. Information to be distributed prior to meeting to all JUG users for consideration.

6. Ideas for spend of potential S106 monies; access paths / routes generally.

S106 monies will be available from the Asprey's site. In order to apply for the funds OTC need to have a plan in place as to how they intend to use the money.

Monies received (usually well into the building phase) need to be used for facilities relating to the site where the development has been built.

Olney Runners pointed out the need for a running track. Could the site on Asprey's be utilized for this purpose?

Cricket Club/Colts – permanent artificial cricket/football pitch to avoid having to go outside Olney to play cricket at times.

Olney Netball Club – could the S106 monies be spent on the new MUGA resurfacing?

Action:

- Have limited time in which to put together a plan. Feedback from all JUG users required as to what best to do with future S106 monies.
- Email Bovis (Victoria) to get PDF copy of plan for proposed facility and details on Asprey's site.

Group matters:

Rugby Club: Planning application to be submitted for extension of 2 self-contained changing rooms. Also planning for use of the top of Doffs field with access off of Austin Avenue as access to a car park to alleviate car parking pressure on the East Street carpark at weekends. Car park may be phased in development as it moves across the field.

2 x residents recently moved to Olney: Concerns over rubbish around the town. Cllr Eley pointed out that there is a litter picking group in Olney. Cllr Bethune pointed out that MK Council is responsible for disposing of the rubbish in the town. 'The Glitter Pickers' and The Brownies both help around Olney to collect rubbish.

Allotment Association: Bought up the issue of parking at the allotments between 9.30am and 12noon on Saturday mornings. The padlock on the gate to access the allotments has recently been vandalised and broken. Coding of padlock only known to football coaches or allotment holders for obvious reasons. Initially worked quite well to prevent unauthorised parking during these hours.

Action: Olney Town Colts agreed to replace the padlock.

Olney Tennis Club: Positive feedback with regards to increasing membership at The Tennis Club. Cllr Eley asked that Tennis Club to prevent parking on the grass and to use the East Street car park as an alternative. Message will be conveyed to the tennis coaches who tend to park at the Tennis Club.

Olney Runners: Membership increasing. Concerns over potholes in Olney. Groups tend now to disperse and meet in differing locations/days/times around the town to prevent not being in one place at the same time.

Olney Cricket Club: Once weather improves new run ups for practice nets will be installed. Container usage at the back of the Pavillion will be out of sight and surrounded by trees as per the OTC's request. Mobile covers have been purchased and will go onto the pitches during the summer.

Olney Town Colts Football Club: Backlogs of fixtures due to bad weather. No scheduled home games beyond 23rd April.

Asked if OTC could help with any additional signage with regards to pay more attention to a significant problem of dogs' mess on the football fields and in general all over the Rec.

Cllr Clark suggested that OTC could investigate dogs being banned from being let off leads as current signage does not appear to be enough of a sufficient deterrent.

Action: Cllr Eley requested this to be an Agenda item on the next Recs & Services meeting.

Ditches on Crouches Field – 2/3 years ago were cleared of nettles. This is a problem when football is being played retrieving balls etc.

Trees/hedgerow by training area (behind the Tennis Club) need pruning.

Action: Noted. Clerk to talk to Groundsmen to clear when time permits.

Caveman Conditioning: C25K has recently been launched and around 50 people have signed up. Fundraising from this event will go to Friends of Cobbs Garden who have, in turn, nominated funds to go towards supporting young people in the town struggling with mental health who would benefit from physical exercise.

Next Meeting: TBC