





# Ecchinswell Village Hall

## Registered Charity 301814

Ecchinswell Village Hall  
C/o C Hutchins  
5 Rose Cottages  
Ecchinswell  
RG20 4TZ

lived in Newbury and he also helps to run two football teams that play on the pitches, the reason he is here is that the local village team folded when they could not get planning permission to expand enough to get floodlights and eventually they transferred to Newbury town ground.

Ray Wilson asked how the all weather pitch would affect the play park as he is under the impression that it was going to be ripped out to make way for it. Bill explained that it would be situated at the south of the play park. Paul stated that we have no plans to demolish the play park while it still conforms with the B & D monthly health and safety check. Chris informed him, that with the help of Tom Thacker, our county councillor who arranged for a grant from his funding for the play park to be upgraded last autumn, to meet B & D standards, this was overseen by the parish council clerk Doreen Gascoine. Ray then asked the question is the play park still in good condition. Chris' reply was that with the exception of some boards on the multi play unit that will require replacing in the future, it is.

At this point Rick Skelton brought up the subject of a tree that he had been informed was going to be cut down. Paul stated that he had spoken to a man called Andy concerning the state of the trees and whether they would need trimming or any other work carried out on them. The reason for this was because Bill had informed him that one of the visiting teams supporters had spoken to him about the state of the trees along the south edge of the field, believing there may be problems with their safety in a public place. Bill confirmed he had spoken to Paul about this at Highclere castle where Paul was working and he was delivering the mail. This was the reason that there was no reference in the minutes about this because it was outside the meeting, which was questioned by Rick.

Sandra Mace then complained about us encouraging more football at which point Chris stated that the first of the Greenham common trust grants was given solely for use on the playing fields, also we had achieved other grants which could be used inside the hall followed by Paul achieving another GC trust grant which had be used on the sports fields plus the hall, which we have done. He also went on to explain to Sandra and the members of the public that when he took over the treasurers' job from Nick Herbert, he impressed on him that the most important thing to keep the hall solvent was to make sure the football ran smoothly because it subsidises the hall with approx £1,000.00 a year in income. This is the reason that he feel that the all weather pitch with extra income would help even further as the hall is still making a loss of approx £1,000.00 a year versus annual expenditure. This does not include any other major maintenance expenses on the hall.

Ray Wilson at this point stated that a few years ago when he was in the army he assisted in producing an all weather pitch in Hermitage and agreed that it would be a good way of generating an income. He also asked Paul why the height of the A W P fence was not 3m as he felt this is what was needed. Paul informed him that he believed that it would

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be wrong to put it any higher than the existing fences on the boundaries as this would be unfair to the neighbouring houses.

Tricia Weaver asked what the cost of hiring the pitches would be and was also concerned about the planning being railroaded through without more information being given. At this point Paul informed her that we are still in the infancy of the planning application and the plans had not been made public yet by the B & D council because they are still requesting further information of the details of what we would like to do including extra maps etc. For this reason it's not being railroaded through and the general public will have the right to view and make representation, when all the paperwork is completed by B & D and advertised in the normal planning application way.

Tricia then made a complaint about the bad language on the pitch while the matches are being played. Bill informed her that the F A are aware of this behaviour and are trying to rectify it by getting the referees to control it because they are in charge of the matches, he also will inform referees of this complaint to try and alleviate this problem and he agrees that this is totally unacceptable.

At this point of the meeting the two parish councillors Danella Court and Ena Fowler, decided that all the relevant points concerning the all weather pitch, trees and Play Park had been discussed and that they didn't need to stay any longer.

Paul then asked the members of the public to withdraw from the meeting as there was no further discussion necessary and that they would be informed when further progress had been made.

As the members of the public exited Chris asked them to please look in the hall to see the progress that we have made in the last two years and then perhaps they would understand why we haven't had time to take on any other tasks.

The regular committee meeting continued once the members of the public had left.

Accounts stand at £12,873.38 which includes £3,326.72 profit from the village festival, the amount left of village hall funds are £9,546.66. This is approx £400 less than at the of June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Income for June was £2,084.64, which included 09/10 seasons football payments, gift aid and bowls final period payment plus private rental. Payments out this month total £1,945.36 this was spent on servicing and repair to the swisher mower, purchase of a new mower to be towed by the compact tractor to mow the playing fields plus extra maps for the proposed all weather pitch planning application. The other £400 of losses was to cover maintenance of the hall.

Jill brought up that she felt that there should be a minimum charge for using the hall for children's parties, Chris agreed with this and suggested that it should be £36 at which point Paul thought this was a little bit steep and suggested it was set at £25, this would allow for people to prepare for a party plus clear up afterwards. If it was required for any

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longer the hourly rate would kick in, this was agreed by the committee. Jill felt the bookings were continuing to be good with various people interested in using the hall on a regular basis.

Bill felt the football bookings for next season should continue to be sound and that last season due to the water logging of the pitches, we have probably failed to gain an extra

£300 to £400 of match fees because teamed had to find alternative pitches. He informed us that the community service team had started maintenance of the hall surroundings and were prepared to paint the outside of the hall building if we could provide them with a scaffold tower, which Paul said he could supply.

Lynne stated she had met the Red box fire control service engineer, who checked and serviced the fire equipment; he has supplied us with an inspection certificate. He also informed Lynne that some of the fire extinguishers would have to be replaced because of new legislation; these will be smaller than the existing ones but still have the same fire fighting capacity.

Steve has purchased new hand driers for both toilets; these have come with complimentary soap dispensers, which will be useful as people have been pilfering the existing hand dispensers. He also arranged for the alarm service engineer to rectify a fault on the buildings alarm system, because it was setting itself off at 4am! The engineer at the same time reinstalled the warning buzzer, which goes off when somebody enters the building whilst it's in use.

The next meeting will be on September 4<sup>th</sup> 2010 at 7.30pm.

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