

OXBOROUGH DOORSTEP GREEN ACTION GROUP (ODGAG)

Minutes of Meeting on 20th April 2004, 6.30pm Venue: Swallows (Date of last meeting: 26th Nov 2003)

Present: Chris Heatley, Susan Hernandez & Henry Lambert,

This meeting was called to discuss the two Form of Tenders received via Malcolm Whittlely, from Middleton Services (total £25428.00 + VAT) and Veltshaw Builders (total £26702.71 + VAT) and Malcolm's recommendation (Tender Report) that ODGAG should employ Middleton Services. It was called in haste and apologies for NOT including the whole committee.

1. Of course both tenders are over – budget.
2. Included in the detail are items which were not agreed by ODGAG. The main addition was another 3.6 metre gate for vehicles – both gates to be constructed from metal, when we had already stipulated for a single “3.6 metre wide diamond braced timber field gate with oak posts”.
3. The tender forms refer to drawings made by Rick Morrish, which only Malcolm has seen! (These extra drawings and specifications cost ODGAG £600 + VAT).
4. The cost of **excavating** the pathway is huge: £4175 and £5252, a factor NOT included in the budget.
5. The cost of the pathway dressing ranges between £1614 and £6062.
6. The planting schedule for 2004 is not realisable any more.
7. The committee speculated whether either contractor had actually completed a site visit.
8. It was agreed that Malcolm should be contacted and questioned a little over the basis of the tender reports. Susan would also contact Rick Morrish and get a copy of the drawings and new detailed specifications ASAP; the same committee members agreed to meet again, with Charles, to discuss these drawings and specs.

Minutes of Meeting on 4th May 2004, 6.30pm Venue: Swallows

Present: Chris Heatley, Susan Hernandez, Henry Lambert & Charles Ashley

- 1) Charles had spoken to Ian Monson the day before and made his report. Ian explained that other members of his family (who have a share in the farmland) have been concerned that the **field was under-valued** (following a report in the EDP which highlighted the figure of £30K - £40K Village Green for Oxborough!), but following their own valuation, a figure of £13000 was set. The Countryside Agency has already agreed to fund 100% of the purchase price, agreed at £12750. Additionally, Ian voiced his reservation regarding the **land being owned** by the Parish Council, as any sort of “power struggle” could cause problems with maintaining the green – and suggested that the Village Hall Committee would be the preferred owners. Chris, Treasurer to the Village Hall Committee stated that the VHC already have enough on their plate maintaining the village hall. Charles has asked Ian to scrutinise the Heads of Terms paper, which he gave to Ian several months back, to make any additions or amendments as necessary and get the ball rolling in the direction of his solicitor. Ian intimated that he had already incurred quite a hefty solicitor's bill, trying to sort out his family disagreements. Charles spoke in more detail about the situation and finished up by saying that he was prepared to stay in the loop with Ian, asking the committee to keep on Ian's good side and offer encouragement at any given opportunity.
- 2) It was agreed that the post and wire fence could be removed from the project (budget £1200 + VAT, tenders £1850 +VAT and £1413 + VAT) as there would be no play equipment on the Green and the existing hedge was already establishing itself quite well.
- 3) There should only be one (wooden) gate.
- 4) The path should have a hogging sub-base, with a bitumen tack coat, over which would be applied a graded shingle wearing course (Alternative 2).
- 5) The 3 benches should be fully constructed of wood, fixed with a below ground concrete footing (no metal shoes necessary).
- 6) A meeting on the field has been requested with Malcolm Whittlely to discuss these amendments to the tender request. Susan will post the date ASAP.

ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO TREAT AS **CONFIDENTIAL** ANY INFORMATION RELATING TO IAN AND THE FIELD!