

ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Play Area Committee held on Tuesday 9th April 2019 in the Arden Centre Alveley commencing at 7.30pm.

210. PRESENT

Cllr. Ms. P. M. Barker, Cllr. Mr. K. R. Stanton, Cllr. Mr. R. J. Narburgh, Cllr. Mrs. S. L. Potter, Cllr. Mr. B. A. Punchard.

211. IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. D. H. Rawlinson (Clerk

212. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr. Stanton proposed that Cllr. Ms. Barker be elected Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr. Punchard and duly carried.

213. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

214. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None declared.

215. MINUTES -

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 29th March 2016 were a true and accurate record.

216. PLAY AREA - ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORT 2018 AND SUBSEQUENT ISSUES.

The Chairman noted that the report from September 2018 had raised a range of issues, although many of these were classified low risk or very low risk. It was recognised that, in the absence of recent spending on maintenance, there was a significant backlog of work, which would need to be prioritised.

It was noted that the following items of equipment were not useable at present, with some components removed from site for safety reasons –

- Basket swing – basket removed;
- Spring Lion – also base removed and ground reinstated;

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- Multi-play – bucket removed;
- Activity Trail – base spring to one component removed and ground reinstated.

217. SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL FORTNIGHTLY INSPECTIONS OF THE PLAY AREA.

The Clerk reported that the reports of inspections between April and December 2018 had only been received in February 2019. As a result the Parish Council had complained in writing to Shropshire Council and had declined to pay for the period April to September 2018. A substantive response from Shropshire Council was awaited. In the meantime Shropshire Council Play Inspection Service has advertised a monthly inspection service for 2019/20 at a cost of £26 per visit.

There was agreement that it was advisable not to rely on a single annual inspection, and that monthly inspections should be procured if possible. The Clerk confirmed that this was in line with advice from the Parish Council's Insurance Brokers. It was also agreed that this was not an appropriate role for an individual Councillor. It was therefore agreed to authorise the Clerk to approach Shropshire Council for monthly inspections, subject to a guarantee that inspection reports would be submitted to the Parish Council within a reasonable timescale i.e. not more than a month in arrears.

218. BUDGET AVAILABLE TO COMMITTEE 2019/20.

The Committee noted that the budget approved by the Parish Council in January 2019 included £1,000 for 2018/19, which had not been spent, and £4,500 in 2019/20 for Play Area repairs. The Clerk also advised that unspent Neighbourhood Fund grant was £4,780, with a further £2,367 to be received at the start of the new financial year. He suggested that, subject to formal agreement by the Parish Council to commit a significant proportion of the Neighbourhood Fund to the Play Area, the Committee would have in the region of £10,000 to spend on refurbishment and repairs. The Committee **agreed** to proceed on this basis.

219. PLAY AREA MAINTENANCE –

It was agreed to split the work required into four categories:

- (a) Playground equipment;
- (b) Sandpit;
- (c) Safety surfacing;
- (d) Benches etc.

and, after detailed discussion, the following work was prioritised in each category:

- (a) Playground equipment
 1. Repair the basket swing (including a quote for a new basket);
 2. Renovate and, if necessary, replace the 2 x flat and 2 x cradle swings;

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3. Repair cable runway.
 4. Replace the bucket for the Multi-play equipment.
- (b) Sandpit
1. Repair membrane;
 2. Replenish sand (up to 6 cu. mtrs. required).
- (c) Safety surfacing – replace grass matrix tiles with Fibrefall or other bonded rubber mulch.
- (d) Benches etc.
1. Repair damaged picnic table;
 2. Sand down and retreat picnic tables and bench.

It was **agreed** to instruct the Clerk to seek quotations for the above work as soon as possible.

220. OUTDOOR FITNESS EQUIPMENT

The Inspection report advised that instruction labels were missing from some equipment and that some hand grips were damaged or missing. It was recognised that these items were easily removeable and **agreed** to investigate the most economical means of replacing them.

221. OTHER MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION

None were raised.

222. TO SET THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

It was agreed to set a provisional date of Tuesday 18th June 2019 for the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 21.10

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.