



St Andrews Parish Council

**Minutes of the Play Areas Committee Meeting
held at Justin Tomlinson Constituency Office, First Floor
Customer Service Hub, Orbital Shopping Park, Thamesdown
Drive on Tuesday 24th January 2023 at 11:00am**

Councillors Present: Jake Chandler*, Steve Heyes (Chairman), Sue MacDonald, Vera Tomlinson and Vince Williams
Officer Present: Emma Sylvester, Clerk and Luke Jones, Grounds Maintenance Manager
Public Present: 0

* Arrived 11:22 am

29. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Jake Chandler sent apologies that he would be late to the meeting.

30. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

31. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 28th June 2022 and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

32. PUBLIC RECESS

No public present

33. PLAY AREAS

- (i) Members discussed play area issues as follows:
 - a) The fake green hedging that was around the fencing on the nursery side of Redhouse Community Centre was coming away from the fence. Members agreed to defer this to Redhouse Community Centre committee.
 - b) A piece of equipment, called vega, at Groundwell had several faults including exposed metal and broken wheels **RESOLVED** to remove as unable to repair.
 - c) The supernova equipment at Buscott had a small crack on the surface, members agreed to monitor.
 - d) Members discussed installing a dual seat swing in the parish. The Grounds Maintenance Manager reported that the cost would be in the region of £600. **RESOLVED** to put on hold as there were more urgent repairs to be completed.
 - e) Members noted that Full Council agreed expenditure from earmarked reserves for Highdown Way and the Grounds Maintenance Manager reported that the bench was being removed that day.
 - f) The Grounds Maintenance Manager reported that the dead tree at Wallis Drive play area which was blocking the camera had been removed. The Clerk agreed to ask Swindon Borough Council for a screen shot of the top camera at the play park.
- (ii) Cllr Heyes reported Benjamin Smile had set up a Community Interest Company which offers accreditation to inclusive play areas. Members discussed how play areas can be more imaginative and how the accreditation check list could be used

when planning future improvements in the parish. Clerk to add item to next agenda for further discussion.

34. OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT

- (i) The Grounds Maintenance Manager reported that the equipment had now been installed at Brook Park and the outdoor gym can be opened once the white lines have been painted and information sign is in situ. It is hoped that this will be completed by 1st February 2023.

Councillors discussed a request for lighting by the gym to discourage vandalism. Cllr J Chandler agreed to speak to Swindon Borough Council.

- (ii) Members discussed a date and details of the official opening. Members agreed that invitations should be sent to residents, local schools, press and companies in the parish.

RESOLVED to hold the opening on Saturday 18th March 2022. Clerk to liaise with Kompan, arrange items to be given away and see if there were any personal trainers who would like to take part on the open day. Event will be widely publicised.

35. LEASES

Members noted that Full Council agreed to proceed with the play area leases for Groundwell, Standen, Wallis and Highdown. The Clerk has informed Swindon Borough Council and is waiting for a response. Members asked the Clerk to chase Swindon Borough Council for a reply and to set up a meeting if necessary.

36. NATURE TRAIL

Following a discussion at the last meeting regarding a proposal for a nature trail in the parish members asked Cllr J Chandler questions who replied as follows:

Is the route on public rights of way? – All of the trail will be on public footpaths. At the moment whilst work is being completed at the stadium there is a section that is fenced off.

Will there be a need for dog bins, benches? No requirement for bins and benches immediately.

How will the trail be promoted? A map can be uploaded to the parish council website which residents can then download. Members discussed the possibility of having a printed map to be available free of charge from various outlets.

Are there segments? Yes, there would be three separate routes – Tadpole Garden Village, Redhouse and Groundwell. The whole route is approximately 8 miles.

Members discussed if the route could be promoted as bike friendly and dog friendly. Cllr J Chandler said he would check on cycle routes, but it is no problem to walk dogs as all the paths are public footpaths.

RESOLVED for Cllr J Chandler to work with parish council officers to map the trail on software and then as previously resolved continue the project through the Grounds Maintenance Committee.

The meeting closed at 12:13 pm.

Chairman _____

Date _____