



St Andrews Parish Council

**Draft 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 29th November 2022 at 11:00am**

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

20. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Jake Chandler

21. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

22. MINUTES

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

23. PUBLIC RECESS

No public wished to speak. Members discussed why residents did not attend meeting and it was thought that they do come if there is a problem so no public must mean they are happy with how the parish council is running things.

24. PLAY AREAS

Members discussed play area issues as follows:

- (i) The Grounds Maintenance Manager reported that a resident had requested a dual seat at one of the play areas. He explained that this was a seat for an adult and a child costing around £600. It was agreed that the Grounds Maintenance Manager check which swing set would take the weight of a seat and come back to the next meeting with a proposed location.
- (ii) Following a request from a resident it was agreed to move the middle bench in Highdown Way play area to the bottom to the side of the MUGA. This will allow parents to see their children and due to being out in the open should not be used by youths in the evening. The Clerk reported that there were still funds in Earmarked Reserves and the Grounds Maintenance Manager requested money was spent on paint and rubber. **RESOLVED** To recommend to Full Council that the remaining funds in Earmarked Reserves are used for the bench removal, paint and rubber repairs at High Down Way play area.
- (iii) The Clerk reported that she had again chased Swindon Borough Council for a screenshot of the view from the camera at Wallis Drive play area and was waiting for a reply. It was agreed that once the image had arrived the Grounds Maintenance Manager would work with Swindon Borough Council tree department to ensure a clear view of the play area.
- (iv) The Grounds Maintenance Manager reported that a teenager had got himself stuck in one of the toddler swings at Eastbury Way play area. The fire brigade

had had to come to cut him out and the swing now required a new seat. **RESOLVED** to purchase a new seat from GB Sport at of cost of £166 plus delivery (£178.80 + VAT).

25. OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT

- (i) The Grounds Maintenance Manager reported that the installation of the outdoor gym equipment at Brook Park had started despite the wet weather conditions. The Clerk reported that Kompan had asked what colour flooring the parish council would like. It was agreed to have beige colour and mixed with black wet pour base.
- (ii) Cllr Heyes reported that he had spoken to Kompan regarding an official opening. He was waiting for a date which was likely to be the beginning of March. Members discussed having a number of personal trainers available for a number of weekends after the official opening to help people use the equipment and ask the Youth Task Group if they would like to put on any events. It was agreed for members to pass on details of personal trainers to the Clerk who would coordinate.
- (iii) Cllr Heyes reported that the new CCTV camera had been ordered and would be installed early next week. Members requested that the Clerk request that the current camera is remotely turned to face the new equipment until the new camera is set up.
- (iv) **RESOLVED** To approve insuring outdoor gym equipment at a value of £130K at a cost of £31.02.

26. LEASES

Members discussed correspondence received from Swindon Borough Council's Property Asset Manager (as detailed in the attached document in the Minute Book) which states that Swindon Borough Council is unable to invest/contribute to play area maintenance and areas of trees around the plays areas can only be excluded from lease agreements where it is practical to do so. The Borough Council will agree to a once only health check of any trees if that means the parish council will take on the leases. The Property Asset Manager confirmed that the Borough Council does not hold any budgets to contribute to any costs to help the parish with set up costs.

RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that the parish council take on the play area leases with the trees providing that work is completed to stop the water flowing from Thamesdown Drive on to the play area at Cobbett Close play area. The Grounds Team will clear the shrubs so that a land drain can be put in by SBC.

27. NATURE TRAIL

In the absence of Cllr Chandler, Cllr Heyes talked through the proposed route of a nature trail through the parish.

RESOLVED to refer this item to the Grounds Maintenance committee requesting that Cllr Chandler answer the following questions:

Is the route on public rights of way?

If not will permission be given by land owner? Who will ensure path is kept clear?

Will there be a need for dog bins, benches?

How will the trail be promoted?

Are there segments?

28. BUDGET

Members discussed proposed figures for the play area budget for 2023-24. It was noted that there was still money left over from this financial year plus £10,000 in ear-marked reserves. The Grounds Maintenance Manager reported that some play area surfaces would need relaying and the multiunit at Warrener play area would need replacing

RESOLVED

To recommend to the next budget meeting that the play area budget is set as follows:

Insurance - £35

General Consumables - £300

Safety Inspection - £850

Play Area Maintenance - £2500

CCTV - £800

To request to Full Council that any funds left over from this year's play area budget are added to the general play area ear marked reserves.

The meeting closed at 12:32 pm.

Chairman _____

Date _____