



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 6th June 2023 at 11:00am

Councillors Present: Steve Heyes (Chairman), Sue MacDonald and Vera Tomlinson
Officer Present: Emma Sylvester
Public Present: 1

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Jake Chandler, Mary Friend and Vince Williams

3. ELECT A VICE CHAIRMAN

REOLVED To elect Cllr Sue MacDonald as Vice Chairman to the Play Area Committee

4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

5. MINUTES

Members received the minutes of the last meeting and **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the last meetings held on 24th January 2023 and 24th May 2023.

6. PUBLIC RECESS

No public wished to speak.

7. PLAY AREAS

- (i) Members noted the annual external play area inspections reports.
- (ii) The Grounds Maintenance Manager (GMM) reported that the reports had flagged up two issues. One was a possible entrapment issue with the multi-unit at Addinsell, which had been reported to Swindon Borough Council (the owners of this play park) and Kompan (the supplier) and the other was an issue with the zip wire at Brook Park. The GMM provided a quote for the repairs to the zip wire with parts coming in at £548 and labour being completed by the Grounds Maintenance Team. **RESOLVED** to carry out the repairs to the zip wire which meant purchasing a new cable costing £548. Cllr Vera Tomlinson abstained from voting.

The GMM reported other minor issues which had now been fixed by the team.

- (iii) Members discussed the Pipa Play Checklist. The GMM reported that he had tested Brook Park against the criteria and came up with a score of 40 out of 55. He said that it was not possible to achieve top marks on play areas due to the surrounding environment and the parish council has no control over whether there are cafes nearby and also difficult for the parish to provide play equipment connected with sound as the play areas are in residential parts of the parish.
- (iv) Cllr Steve Heyes reported on a complaint received from a local resident regarding a noise disturbance from balls hitting the back of the MUGA at Highdown Way.

Members agreed the solution would be to replace the MUGA with modern material that caused less sound.

RESOLVED that the next project of the Play Areas Committee would be a new MUGA at Highdown Way and apply for grant funding.

8. OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT

- (i) Cllr Steve Heyes reported that the opening of the outdoor gym in Brook Park had been a success and a number of personal trainers had come along to help show residents how to use the equipment.
- (ii) Members discussed the following issues with the outdoor gym:
 - a) Noise Complaint Members noted a complaint from a local resident regarding the noise from the chest press equipment. The Grounds Maintenance Manager (GMM) reported that he had tested the equipment and measured the noise from various points in the park and was currently waiting for Swindon Borough Council to come back to him regarding legal limits relating to outdoor gyms. He reported that he had also been speaking to Kompan regarding fitting sound proofing inside the unit.
 - b) Monitoring Usage Members discussed the usage of the outdoor gym equipment and felt that it was well-used through the day. It was agreed to look at this again at a later date.
 - c) New Path Members discussed whether an additional path was required to access the gym. The GMM reported that there was one tarmacked path directly next to the gym and another just a short walk over the grass. It was agreed there was no pressing need for a path.
 - d) Additional Bin **RESOLVED** to install an additional bin from stock costing under £50 to install
 - e) Cycle Racks **RESOLVED** to install 6 cycle racks subject to permission from Swindon Borough Council costings under £50 to install.

9. CCTV

- (i) The Grounds Maintenance Manager reported that the issues with the CCTV being obscured at Wallis Drive had now been fixed.
- (ii) The Cllr Steve Heyes reported that Swindon Borough Council CCTV services would be changing and proposed that the parish council look at alternatives for monitoring footage. It was agreed for Cllr Heyes and the Clerk to research other options.

10. LEASES

Members discussed the correspondence received regarding a detailing that rights were granted to install a cable along an area of land by Groundwell play area, which was shown coloured blue in the Deed and to include ancillary rights to go onto maintain. Swindon Borough Council have said they do not have this document available so the solicitor cannot check exactly the route over which said rights are granted.

RESOLVED To continue with the play area leases and not to take out an indemnity policy as it is only a small risk.

The meeting closed at 12:18pm.

Chairman _____

Date _____