

## Playground meeting Minutes – 19:00 - 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023

### Present:

Beccy Soper (Chairman)  
Selina Musters  
Alice Foster  
Rachel McMaster  
Caroline Popham  
Lois Opperman  
Nigel Rugman  
Trisha Rugman  
Aly Warner  
David Warner

Alice Foster explains that Longstock playground was built over 15 years ago and is beginning to fall into disrepair. Most pertinently the timber is rotting, especially in the ground and on the upper horizontal bars, so we need to look into repairing and/or replacing the equipment.

We recently received our annual report from RoSPA, which is an independent specialist that provides inspections to ensure the long-term safety of playground sites, equipment and ancillary items. The report provides a breakdown of the items that need addressing and their associated “risk”. We will also get some advice from local engineering/carpenter specialists. *Action: Lois Opperman and Nigel Rugman.*

From the RoSPA report, some equipment in the playground only needs smaller/cheaper repairs. We will organise a working party, asking people from the village to help, and will mend these items ourselves. We aim to do this in the next few weeks. We will use funds that have already been raised for the playground to purchase any equipment and materials that we need. *Action: Beccy Soper and Alice Foster.*

For the larger/more expensive equipment that needs work, we will contact RoSPA to confirm what the number ratings in our report signify, as there is confusion regarding some equipment. If this equipment is deemed safe to use for another year or two, we are going to make do for now. *Action: Beccy Soper.*

For the long-term plan of the playground, it will make more financial sense to replace the current equipment, rather than fixing it as a short-term solution. We will secure grants to pay for this. We will need to organise a team to work on the grant applications. Some, such as the Veolia Environmental Trust Grant Scheme, have a comprehensive application process and therefore require lots of work, but they offer grants up to £75,000 so will be worth us focusing time and effort into them. *Action: Caroline Popham to share with us other grants that may be suitable. Alice Foster to contact TVBC and HCC to enquire about suitable grants.*

We currently have a quote from Sovereign Play Equipment to replace the playground with timber equipment. We also discussed using a different material than timber, which would last for longer and be more sustainable, such as recycled plastic or accoya wood. We will get a quote to compare the price between timber and recycled plastic. *Action: Alice Foster.*

We will need to organise fundraising events to raise additional money. This will be on-going. We discussed giving villagers realistic targets to aim for, such as £10,000 to replace a specific piece of equipment.

We are looking into potentially doing a fundraising event in Longstock Water Gardens in summer. *Action: Beccy Soper and Selina Musters.*

Caroline Popham shared information about the brilliant playground in Longparish. We will get in touch with the lady who was behind the creation of this playground to get some tips and advice. *Action: Caroline Popham.*

Alice Foster has got in touch with the Parish Council in Otterbourne regarding Oakwood Park Recreational Ground, which was funded by the Veolia grant. We have received very useful feedback from the Otterbourne Parish Council Clerk.

David Warner suggested we provide a Risk Management sign at the playground. We are to investigate getting one made. *Action: Selina Musters to collate prices and to propose the wording.*

We need to make sure the playground equipment is inspected each week, so we are aware of any issues and ensure our insurance remains valid. We will gather the names of volunteers and will draw up a rota. Each person will inspect it for a month (four weeks) and will then pass on the inspections to the next person on the rota. *Action: All to contact people to volunteer and pass their information on to Beccy Soper.*

Beccy Soper, Selina Musters and Alice Foster discussed the proposed Terms of Reference, which we will bring to the Parish Council meeting for agreement on 8<sup>th</sup> June.

**ENDS**