

# Allington Hill Volunteers Extraordinary Committee

## Meeting Thursday 21 March 2013

**Present:** Cathy Harvey (Chair), Sal Robinson (Treasurer), Anne-Marie Beer (Secretary / Coordinator), Paul Bowditch, Irwin Beer, Kevin Trott.

Sally Glass and Jonathan Burgess, Woodland Trust.

### 1. Apologies.

Chris Toombs, Deanne Trott, Claire Edwards.

### 2. Play Equipment.

#### 2.1. Current Position.

Jonathan explained the current position. Whilst he had endorsed the purchase of the equipment to encourage children and adults to come to the hill, it now appears that this equipment does not comply with the Woodland Trust policy on "informal play".

#### 2.2. Informal Play Policy.

The Woodland Trust "informal play" policy document of 2007 rules out purpose built equipment of any kind.

There is no intrinsic problem with the equipment itself. As regular inspections are being carried out the equipment is deemed to be safe and covered by the Woodland Trust insurance.

There would be no problem if the equipment was not on Woodland Trust land.

#### 2.3. Suggestions for a way forward.

##### 2.3.1. Look to lease Coopers Wood / Field to

- The Volunteers
- another organization e.g. Allington Parish Council,
- West Dorset District Council.

to be managed by the community for the community, at a peppercorn rent.

##### 2.3.2. Find a group or organization which would take the equipment away and re-use it

##### 2.3.3. Remove the equipment completely

After some discussion it was agreed that the Woodland Trust should approach Allington Parish Council with a clear proposal that the Parish Council take over Coopers Wood / Field and become responsible for the equipment.

### 3. Management Plan.

#### 4.

##### 4.1. Agree a Work Programme for the next few years.

Jonathan said that the Management Plan will govern what the Trust does on the hill for the next five years and it is therefore vital that the volunteers make their suggestions for inclusion in the plan.

It was agreed that the steps are the highest priority. Jonathan confirmed that it would be OK if the Volunteers raised the money for these themselves and used their own contractor provided he had the necessary insurance etc.