

Cheriton Parish Council- Report on Play Area Tuesday 14th November 2017

Play Area Remedial Works

It was noted by Cllr. Line that a pin to maintain tension in one of the new gate springs has fallen out, and hence tension to the spring is lost and the gate is not self-closing. This has been taken up with VitaPlay as a warranty issue, so far without success.

Play Area Inspection Training

A weekly rota for all those trained is being produced. Cllr. Scallan is waiting to hear back from the Hampshire Playing Fields Association (HPFA) with respect to their feedback on the draft 'list of checks' to be undertaken. Cllr. Frampton has agreed to undertake a monthly tree inspection.

Play Area Renewal

Further to the progress reported last month:

- A draft layout of an expanded play area was produced by Cllr. Herdman showing the current play area expanding eastwards to share a boundary with Cherry Trees, and southwards to form a southerly boundary that is a straight line.
- This schematic has been shared with the Chair of the Rec committee, the Treasurer and the Secretary, inviting comments and discussion of next steps. Their feedback is being pursued.
- The Play Area Working Group (lead: Cllr. Herdman) continues to meet regularly to progress both fundraising and work as a whole. Cllr Herdman and the working group are investigating potential equipment suppliers who could offer the sort of equipment appropriate for our area, and have produced a general set of criteria for any potential suppliers, based on input from the public consultation. It is the intention to invite potential suppliers to present at the village hall on their suggested solutions, ahead of starting the formal procurement process.
- Fundraising efforts continue with a very welcome contribution from the HPFA of £1000. There is a possibility of a further £1000 if the HPFA form is submitted. ***Proposed resolution: for the Clerk to complete the HPFA form.***
- There is also £2,300 potentially available from Boomtown Community Support Fund and it is requested that some or all of this funding be given to the play area project. If agreed ***then proposed resolution: the Clerk to complete the Boomtown application paperwork ahead of their deadline of 15th December.*** Further conditions to this application are contained at the end of this report.
- Unfortunately the grant application made in respect of the Big Lottery Fund Reaching Communities has been declined. However having this response, negative as it may be, does permit an application to be made to another part of the Big Lottery (National Lottery) scheme- they only permit one application at a time. Work with the Alresford Rotary, the Pigs and others is ongoing.
- Cllr Scallan will be attending the next Tichborne PC meeting on 28th November to give an update on overall progress with the Play Area, and the intention is to invite them to contribute towards either/or all of the capital cost of the play area, the ongoing maintenance, and the sinking fund. As a reminder Kilmeston PC has already pledged £300 per annum towards updating the equipment and the annual maintenance.
- There has been no response as yet from HCC Cllr. Humby in terms of discretionary funding.

- Following on from last month's meeting where it was agreed to progress the work with respect to the Play Area, and the progression of a loan from the Public Works Loans Board, Council should note that there has been a small increase in the Bank of England base rate. This has been reflected in the rates available for a loan: for example a £25,000 loan repayable between 9.5 and 10 years now attracts a rate of 1.82%, giving a half yearly cost of £1372.87 and £1477.50 depending on which scheme is adopted.
- Subject to the broader discussion on the 14th, and noting that the Parish Council must consider the capital costs of updating the play area, the annual maintenance cost, and a sinking fund, if council agrees to progress a loan application the next stage is to seek approval from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). This is done by Cheriton PC approaching HALC. If agreed by Council, it would there be a ***proposed resolution: the Clerk to contact HALC and engage them to start the process of seeking DCLG approval.***

Play Area Inspections: Log of Issues Arising

#1: It has been noted that the access to the play area from the Goodens via the public right of way is overgrown. The issue is not major, given access is possible via the Rec ground, however the landlords should clear the right of way.

Action: Clerk has been asked to write to the Rec Landlords asking them to clear the right of way.

#2: The gate to the play area on the Cecil's side is no longer self-closing, as outlined earlier. The tension has been lost in the spring.

Action: Cllr. Scallan has contacted the supplier to ask them to make good under their warranty. The Clerk has been copied.

Appendix: (Summary of) Boomtown conditions for Community Support Fund Applications

* All invoices must be received by Friday 15th December 2017.

* The Parish Council will hold an open and fair discussion forum to consider the applications and allocation of funds. Minutes of this meeting and a report detailing the proposed allocation of funds will be shared with BoomTown Fair local_community@boomtownfair.co.uk by Monday 30th April 2018.

END of report.