

Leigh Playpark Committee Meeting at  
Sherfield Houses, Leigh, 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Present: Mel Shine (MS) Chairperson, Julia Jepson (JJ) Secretary, Hannah Gillibrand (HG), Colin House (CH) Treasurer, Cathy Purcell (CP), Sandra Scutt (SS) Leigh Parish Council (LPC) chairman.

Apologies: Sarah Knowles, Graham Bugler (GB), David Woodridge (DW)

Welcome

MS welcomed all.

Matters arising from last meeting/Status Report

At meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> July, DW had agreed to do a Gant Chart for the project. This was presented by MS in his absence. It showed some slippage already due to the lease negotiations still being ongoing. It now looks unrealistic to have a new playpark by next summer. The lease is currently with the Parish Council to respond.

JJ reported that David and Anne Reason had requested planting two trees in the wildflower meadow to mark their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. She had met them there with Paul Orchard and as David Reason was the Playground Chairman for many years, it would be nice to celebrate this in some way when the playground was opened.

Lease Update

JJ said the VH committee had reservations in 3 areas:

- Length of lease (initially agreed 99 years but now want 25). 25 years was thought to be too little, and as the lease has clauses to say that it can be cancelled if LPC/Playground Committee break the terms, there was adequate protection against mismanagement. SS will contact new VH Chairman (Alan Garrett) to discuss. SS to do.
- Protection of wildflower area. The vision of a joint open space, wildflower meadow and playarea needed to be better communicated to allay any concerns. CP agreed to join the VH committee. CP to do. JJ suggested asking Heather Baldock onto the Playground committee to give advice on wildflower issues. All agreed. JJ to do.
- Ball games being allowed (noise nuisance to neighbours). JJ said she had spoken to Paul Orchard who was concerned about noise from a basketball hoop. JJ to contact Old Vicarage to see if they have any objection. JJ to do.

### Dorset Community Action Meeting Update

CP had attended a meeting in July run by Dorset Community Action for playground committees. It covered areas including equipment selection, grants/funding applications, hints and tips from a successful development and networking opportunities. She reported that it had been useful and she had learnt:

- Association of play industries can give a list of suppliers. Then you can send a tender list of equipment required and ask them to submit bids.
- Register of independent playground inspectors. Doesn't have to be ROSPA to do the annual inspection.
- Parish Council should pay for equipment so VAT can be reclaimed.
- Involve as many people as possible with the design, especially children to get enthusiasm rolling. Suggestions include a drawing competition; involve the Village via the website, FaceBook, WriggleValley Magazine.
- Could start a "Friends of the Playpark" group.
- Need to provide evidence of support from Village/Parish Council when submitting funding applications. SC said the Parish council Poll was good evidence.
- There are lots of funding opportunities, both general, eg Tesco, or specific - specific funding pots eg: promote better mental/physical health. Need to identify best source for equipment required.

All thanked CP for going.

JJ said she had been told by the Parish Council at Milborne Port that their castle/slide cost £18k, but that had not been broken down into landscaping/equipment. MS had brochures which showed a castle much less than that.

CH said we needed to be a position to move when we applied for funding as we had previously lost money when we applied too early.

CP said she will also attend a Funding Fair. CP To go

### Project Plan Update

Gant chart had been done by DW.

SS said the Playground committee should push forward with the planning stages despite the lease, as she needed numbers for the Parish Council

meeting in November. She said she would contact Paul Orchard to make sure this was ok. SC to do.

Actions still required:

Specification to be drafted

Meetings with consultants/suppliers

Costings for LPC meeting 21<sup>st</sup> November 2017

JJ/MS to do.

### Mowing/Upkeep

HG reported mowing rota worked well this year, but that weeds were coming through the membrane. As we are most likely going to be still there next spring, it was decided to wait until next year and do a SPRING CLEAN, weed membrane etc. JJ still has the seats purchased for the inspection. They arrived after the inspection and as the current seats passed, they were not replaced. Rather than put them on now and have them deteriorate over the winter, they could be put on during the spring clean.

SS said maintenance in the new Playpark (hedge cutting/mowing) would be paid by LPC, but that the Playground Committee would be expected to fundraise to contribute to the costs.

### Health & Safety

No recorded problems.

### AOB

JJ to write thank you letter to LPC for all their support. JJ to do.

### Next Meeting:

15<sup>th</sup> November 7.30 Sherfield House

To review the consultant's report/costings before the Parish Council meeting.