



EYNSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Play Area Committee was held
at the Play Areas at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 8th July 2008

MINUTES

Present: Mrs L Dickinson, Mr T Green, Mrs S Osborne, Mrs L Piálek, Mrs S Prior & Mrs M Sheppard and Ron

1. Apologies for Absence: Mr G Beach Mrs R Cadman, & Mrs S Lee (Clerk)

2. Declaration of Interests: None

3. Public Participation: No items were submitted by the public

4. Minutes 27 May 2008

The minutes of the Play Area Committee meeting held on 27 May 2008 in Bartholomew Room were confirmed.

5. Matters Arising

5.1 Gate Witney Road

A quotation of £285.00 has been received from a contractor (contact Mark Probbitts) for replacing the entrance gate at Witney Road Play Area, including making good the fencing and removing the concrete post. The committee would like to go ahead with this offer and asks the Council/Finance Committee to authorise the expenditure for the works to commence as soon as possible.

5.2 Bench Wytham View

The request to move the bench closer to the light and further away from the back wall of nearby residents' gardens was considered again as part of our on-site review of the play area (see 6 below). The committee decided not to go any further with this request as it would not add any value to the play area and its users. Moreover, the committee's medium-term hope is to completely renovate the play area (see 6 below) and at that point the position of all the equipment will be reconsidered.

6. Review of Play Equipment

The committee visited all three play areas and examined their state (regarding especially risk and hazard), considered the appropriateness of the different layouts, the diversity of the equipment and developed a 'wish list'. (a detailed table with comments is attached).

The overall impression for each of the play areas was as follows:

Witney Road. The committee was very pleased with the state of the play area, which had greatly improved following the recent redevelopment work. The equipment was generally in excellent condition and attractive to a wide range of age groups. The intention is to make progress with Phase 2 of the redevelopment work, including

improving the entrance gate as well as deciding and ordering new equipment. Five points requiring immediate attention were identified:

- Start work on entrance gate (see 5.1 above).
- Resurface the basketball pitch as committee considers the damage in the concrete to be a great hazard. **Clerk** to get quote.
- Remove (if possible long term) the weeds overgrowing the landscaping outside the entrance to the play area. **Clerk** to check responsibility (possibly poor quality of service by the company responsible for the landscaping) and if appropriate get quote.
- Check on the chicken spring rocker as some bolts seem to be missing. **Clerk** to inform maintenance team.
- Replace missing board in fence in the far corner between play area and playing field. **Clerk** to check responsibility for the fence and if necessary inform maintenance team.

Wytham View. This play area was considered the least attractive of all, for the lack and age of equipment as well as layout. The committee felt that the three pieces of equipment catered to three different age groups. However, because there was so little equipment, the play area as a whole was not actually attractive to any one particular age group. The area could benefit from new equipment, but the committee would prefer a complete overhaul, rather than adding extra equipment. The committee hopes to secure (with the support of the Council) significant funding through the upcoming Playbuilder initiative. Two points requiring immediate attention were identified:

- Get a quote to reconstruct the entrance gate area, removing the 'tunnel' and moving the gate in line with the fence surrounding the play area. **Clerk** to get quote.
- Cut back branches overhanging the play equipment (also recommended in the RoSPA report, see 6 below). **Clerk** to inform maintenance team.

Oxford Road. The committee felt this play area was attractive to a wide range of age groups and provided a good variety of equipment, which was still in remarkable condition given its age. A major overhaul is not necessary at this time, but would be desirable if Section 106 monies will be secured as part of a possible future East Eynsham development. Three points requiring immediate attention were identified:

- Remove Sputnik (declared unsafe by RoSPA) and if possible replace with similar equipment. **Clerk** to get quote.
- Remove thistles growing in the 'bark-covered' areas. **Clerk** to inform maintenance team.
- Replace one of the eight swing chairs with an 'inclusive' chair for use by children with special needs. **Clerk** to get quote.

7. From the above observations, the committee decided on six key priorities (listed in order of preference/urgency):

1. **Oxford Road:** Remove the **Sputnik** (declared unsafe by RoSPA in June, see 6 below) and replace with similar equipment (ie something circular and revolving). Until removal, place warning signs on the Sputnik and take pictures for insurance reasons.
2. **Witney Road:** Remove and improve **entrance gate** (see 5.1 above).
3. **Witney Road:** Resurface concrete **basketball pitch**.
4. **Wytham View:** Cut back branches and **foliage**; **Oxford Road:** remove **thistles** around equipment
5. **Wytham View:** Open up **gate area**, remove 'entrance tunnel'
6. **Wytham View:** look into grants for complete revamp.

8. RoSPA inspection

There had not been enough time to study RoSPA report and the item will be discussed at the next meeting.

A number of issues identified by RoSPA were picked up at the play area inspection, most notably:

- Need to remove Sputnik at Oxford Road.
- Need to level out gaps between surfaces and grass at Wytham View.
- Cut back branches at Wytham View.
- Possibly repaint old equipment at Wytham View and Oxford Road.

9. Date of Next Meeting: tbc