



EYNSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Play Area Committee meeting in the Bartholomew Room
on Tuesday 20 October 2009 at 6.30pm

MINUTES

Present: Ms S Osborne, Mrs A Beavis, Mr D Rossiter, Mr G Beach, Mrs M Sheppard, Mrs L Piálek & Mrs S Lee (clerk) and 11 members of the public – Mr R Andrews, County Cllr C Mathew, Prof & Mrs Dowling, Mr White, Mr & Mrs Scott, Mr Green, Mr Hingley, Mr Edmondson & Mr Robinson.

Apologies were accepted from Dr L Wright and Mr A Collett

To elect a Chair – it was **RESOLVED** that Mr Rossiter would chair the committee

Declarations of interest – none

Correspondence –

OCC – Aiming High Grant	To advise of successful application and grant of £19,000
WODC	Play Area grant – to advise of successful application for £5,000
Mr & Mrs Hingley	comments re Wytham View Play area – 7 September
Mrs Hall	comments re Wytham View Play Area – 16 Sept and 15 Oct
Mr Green	comments re Wytham View Play Area - 17 Sept
Dovehouse Supporters	comments re Wytham View Play area - 6 Oct
Mr Armstrong	comments re Wytham View Play Area
Prof & Mrs Dowling	comments re Wytham View Play area – 21 September and memorandum re play area

Public Participation – members of the public advised of their concerns -

- Lack of proper plans to date
- The possibility of increased noise especially at night and increased vandalism and the need for night time security.
- That the wooded area should not be developed as this could encourage arson etc
- That increased policing was required on the play area to prevent anti social behaviour
- That the Council should appreciate that the play area was close to a residential area when making plans
- This is a small play area and the plans should be appropriate for the size and area.
- The suggestion that older children's equipment be placed on another area in the parish away from residential dwellings.
- Residents wished the area to be redeveloped but hoped the PC would work with them to create a plan that was acceptable to all. They would welcome a safe environment for young children to play.
- The suggested moving of the gate on the eastern boundary was felt to encourage people in to the centre of Dovehouse Close and could result in an increase in noise and nuisance.
- Requests were made for the picnic table to be removed and for seating which could not be used for group gatherings. Concern was expressed that if the Junior Multi play area was against the school fence the visibility of the school swimming pool would be increased.
- A resident pointed out that despite the concerns re arson no one has set fire to the existing wooden play structure.

- It was agreed that the existing equipment needs updating and once an area has been upgraded experience shows that people have more pride in an area and less anti social behaviour takes place.
- Prof Dowling discussed his memorandum document with the meeting
- Mr Beach advised that at the NAG meeting it was agreed to increase police presence in the area and requested that all residents phone the police re any issues on the site as at present few reports have been made this year.

The Chair advised that this meeting would be a response to the letters received as recommendations to full council would be made – if after the meeting further questions arose or if the minutes did not answer the questions residents were asked to contact the Clerk.

The minutes of 1 September and notes of 12 October were confirmed as true records of the meetings

Wytham View Play Area

Age range on the play area – it was agreed to recommend to full council that the present age range for the play area of 14 years and below would remain the target age range. A good balance of equipment for all ages should be installed as if only toddler equipment was installed the older children could make inappropriate use of this.

Equipment – following discussions with the police and RoSPA putting equipment in the tree area was not felt to have any increased risk of arson providing the undergrowth was cut back to improve sight lines. Concern with regard to the swimming pool visibility was discussed. It was agreed to recommend to full council that the far end of the wooded area was used as detailed in Mr Davis’s plans with the junior MPU being angled in the SE corner of the site to replace the existing rather derelict area. This MPU should not have areas where youths can congregate and should comprise of ropes, scrambling nets etc. Landscaping should be incorporated around the boundaries of the site. It was felt that a shelter did not need to be part of the design at present and should be omitted and reconsidered at a later date. It was felt that the entrance on this corner should remain in its current position.

Securing the site/Anti-social behaviour (ASB) – the cost of employing a firm to lock the site would be approx £4000 pa - at present it is not possible to secure the site as there is no gate at one entrance. It was agreed to recommend to full council that the council request the police to attach a greater priority to the area immediately in order to establish a base line for the ASB on site at present and for the council to work with the police and local residents to remove the ASB on the site. It was proposed that full council consider setting up a residents' group formed of councillors, local people and users of the play area who should work to look at the play area and its wider remit.

Mrs Beavis had prepared more detailed plans of the possible equipment for the site which were circulated. Suggestions were –

- Pathway slightly raised to separate football area and play equipment area
- Toddler MPU – no roof
- Spinning bowl needs to be incorporated – Revolve Inclusive Roundabout as per Aiming High grant
- Seating should be placed around the site with no group gathering points
- Mounds – a tunnel, slide and trampoline should be incorporated
- Sandpit around mounds – this could be replaced with bark if there was any evidence of issues with cats.
- Sensory equipment on sides of MPU and sensory planting in turning circle
- Drag ramp on MPU
- Landscaping – no steps use ramps

- Goal – the suggestion of a climbing/bouldering wall to be incorporated

A meeting with Trevor Stewart was to be arranged as soon as possible to obtain revised plans for the site. These plans would be recommended to full council for acceptance for further consultation with a decision re works to be taken at the full council meeting on 17 November. The plans would be widely available for consultation after 3 November via website, library, notice boards and circulation to residents adjoining the play area.

Recommendations to Full Council

- To retain the current age range for the play area as 14 years and under
- To use the SE corner of the site for the junior MPU - this should not have areas where youths can congregate and should comprise of ropes, scrambling nets etc and the issue of overlooking the swimming pool should be considered. Landscaping should be incorporated around the boundaries of the site. No shelter will be placed on site at present. The existing entrance should remain in its current position on the SW corner.
- To request the police to place a greater priority on the area with immediate effect
- To work with residents to set up a residents' association to look at the play area in more detail with members from Council, local residents and users of the play area.
- To receive revised plans for the area and make arrangements for further consultation with a final decision being made re works at the Full Council meeting of 17 November.