



THURLASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Elaine Foxon
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Meeting Notes

Recreation Ground Sub-Committee Meeting Held 7pm, Monday 15th February 2021

- 1) Attendees: Phil Marshall, Trevor England & Paul Holyman - Apologies None
- 2) PH gave an update on work undertaken in line with various recommendations from the Play Inspection Company annual inspection. This work has been undertaken by Karl Holyoak (invoice authorised and paid at February meeting):

Completed works are as follows

- **Bench** - Bolts done, stability in progress and will be done
- **Picnic table** - Done
- **Basketball post** - Done
- **Basket swing** - Done, lifted, chains reviewed and secure
- **Multi play** - in part secure, end caps sourced, upon receipt will be fitted
- **Spring see-saw** - further works required to complete but usable & secure

Partially completed work

- **Supanova** - in part done and secured. Work still required on this if possible (investigating if parts can be sourced)

- 3) Outstanding work, as per PI report:

- **Litter bin** - removal of one to be undertaken (not fitted to requirements etc.) 2 sourced, lockable, as per requirements - cost £350 inc. installation (concrete/locked to ground) 1 sited as per current location near playground with additional bin sited on Earl Shilton Road side of field near the main gate – **AGREED.**

N.B. This expenditure has not yet been authorised – Please will all Councillors confirm this expenditure to Elaine asap. Thanks. - APPROVED

- 4) **Jungle Climber & Monkey Bars** – PH advised that Sovereign had carried out an inspection at our request. Three points:

- The air cracks in the wooden structure are considered to be within range (less than 8mm) – **Recommended action** - we should continue to monitor. PH advised that there is a 20 year guarantee on the wood structure. – **AGREED.**
- The Grass Tiles have sunk into the ground and are not providing the correct safety surfacing required – **Recommended action** – Monitor – (also see later notes re Safety Matting). - **AGREED.**
- Sovereign will raise two bolts to prevent the identified trip hazard – **Recommended action** – follow up to ensure completion of remedial work. – **AGREED.**

- 5) **Safety Matting** (also see PI inspection report and Sovereign quote for remedial work – copies available if required)

- Review of options

PH advised that he and Elaine have been investigating the options. Elaine found an extremely useful 'Legal Position statement' on the RoSPA website relating to Play

Area surfacing. The key point is '*There is no legal requirement for protective surfacing to be provided on children's playgrounds. It is, however, recommended by safety organisations such as RoSPA, BSI, NPFA and CAPT*'.

A full copy can be found at: <https://www.rospace.com/play-safety/advice/surfacing>

You will see that they include concrete/tarmac as an acceptable surface!!

I also contacted LRPFA who were extremely helpful and made a site visit on Monday 15th February. Whilst acknowledging that they are not certified inspectors their comments are that the wet pour around the swings and roundabout seem to be in good condition and need no repairs. The only minor thing is the gap around the edge, which does create a very minor trip hazard, but nothing that some filling with bark or even gravel/soil wouldn't solve.

The tiles around the other equipment seem to be, in the main, in good condition no issues that they would consider anything above very low/low risk. The PI inspector may have noted that some are a little spongy, which may be down to the tile itself, or possibly just the ground underneath. This doesn't appear to detract from their purpose however, as they would still perform. The only action suggested is to look to replace the few tiles affected, or if it is possible lift and fill underneath. Otherwise, continue with the regular monitoring, and treat them as a low/very low risk as per your report.

Recommended action: In view of the RoSPA and LRPFA comments –

1. We undertake repairs to the edging by building up with soil and grass seeding. This will be required on both the wet pour and tile areas. The suggestion is to do this on a Saturday in March, dependant upon weather conditions. PH will liaise with PM to agree a date and will advise all in due course. PM will bring his tractor to move the soil and has some grass seed. PH will speak with Phil Keatley to see if he still has some soil available. PM also has some soil at the Garden Centre. – **AGREED.**
 2. Thereafter we continue with our regular monitoring programme and see what the PI company say at next inspection. – **AGREED.**
- 6) Exchange of Members Information
- PH suggested that a provision of £1500 be made within 2021/22 budget reserves to cover future Safety Matting repairs/replacement – **AGREED.**

Philip Marshall
Chair, Thurlaston Recreation Ground Sub-Committee
16th February 2021