

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SOUTH WONSTON PAVILION COMMITTEE 13-07-2021 AT 2.00 pm at the Pavilion

PRESENT

Cllrs Perrins (JP) (Chairman), Selby (DS) and Clerk Mrs Jones (RJ). Tree Warden Lesley Mackinnon (LM)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Peal (AP) & Cllr Street

PAVILION MANAGEMENT

The Deep Clean will take place on Monday 19th July and will continue mid Aug & Mid Sept

There have been a number of problems with Scouts misusing the facilities. The Chairman and Clerk would like them to return their keys.

Corrigenda are due to carry out a service on the sewage tank on Thursday 15th July.

The Damage Report and Action Plan was reviewed and is attached.

FINANCE

No Finance was discussed

RECREATION GROUND MANAGEMENT

The new bench shelters are on order, but there is a delay until the end of July for delivery.

Clerk to arrange for EHS visit to clean the park and use an algae scrub on the rhino mulch.

Report received from playground volunteer helper

Following a professional inspection of the village playground by The Play Inspection Company in late February I was asked and agreed to look at various of the problems identified. After more than two months I have still not been able to complete all the work required almost entirely due to delays in obtaining answers and parts from the various manufacturers. There would appear to be a lack of knowledge or interest in after sales service by some suppliers.

1. MUGA

Due to the vibration caused by the balls bouncing off the metal mesh a number of fastenings had become loose with some having fallen out. Certain of these were unique which I have now identified (Fourtress Flange Machine Screws M8x50) and

purchased while others were standard tamper-proof fittings. These have all now been replaced along with additional spare parts for future use.

2. Activity Trail (Chain Walk)

Over the years of use the chains had stretched so that the lower chain rested on the ground. I removed several links and replaced worn fittings and this has lifted the chains. There are surplus spare parts for future use.

3. Spinning Pole (Spica 3).

This Spinner is now 15+ years old and the bearings had failed so that it no longer worked. The manufacturer would not supply the bearings alone but only as a complete sub assembly; they quoted £1,502 for undertaking the complete repair. I was subsequently able to purchase the bearings (part 6306-2RSR) elsewhere at a cost less than £30! These have now been fitted and the Spinner is operational again.

These bearings are sealed and do not require routine lubrication.

4. Single Point Swing (Tripod Nest Swing).

A number of special fastenings on this swing had broken although continued use of the item was not dangerous. After more than 2 months from my first enquiry I finally received replacements from the manufacturer just last week and these have now been fitted. A second problem concerning lubrication of the central fitting and the replacement of a missing cover are still ongoing with the manufacturer.

When the missing cover is replaced there will be two greasing points on the central swivel unit which should be greased annually.

The wooden tripod frame is deteriorating and crumbling in places and in a few years will require replacement, it is now more than 15 years old. The current equivalent equipment is no longer wood but steel. Replacement can be delayed I believe if the wood is routinely treated with a quality preservative and I recommend this is undertaken without further delay. I would suggest treating it twice over the next three months and annually thereafter.

5. Climbing Wall (Assault Wall).

The top pole of this equipment has become rotten and requires replacement. Vita Play Ltd has (at last!) provided a quote of some £260 to supply a replacement pole. Given the cost, if agreed I have requested the Parish Council commits directly with Vita Play for the supply and I will subsequently fit it.

I believe this item is a greater risk than assessed and if the replacement part is not purchased and fitted promptly this Assault Wall should be taken out of service as I fear the right hand rope will pull through the softened wood.

Following my recommendation the Parish Council has promptly arranged the removal of the lower branches of the overhanging tree. The wall had become covered in pigeon droppings and was unpleasant and probably unhealthy to use. Hopefully this action will minimise the problem.

6. Rotating Net (Tower Carousel).

The inspector reported the bearing required greasing although I believe the problem could simply be the top cap rubbing on a plastic collar. Thank you to Berry, Rachael's daughter, who helped us by climbing to the top and applying a silicone lubricant. Unfortunately however this has not cured the problem of the carousel turning in a series of jerks rather than smoothly revolving.

Greasing the bearing itself would be a major undertaking, in fact almost the same task as replacing the bearing as it will require the use of lifting equipment to remove the top cap, all the climbing netting and the nests. My recommendation is to do nothing further unless the bearing fails when the cost of this work can be justified. In the meantime continuing to use it will not cause damage to the rest of this equipment.

I was told by the manufacturer that the bearing was a sealed unit and does not normally require routine lubrication.

7. Rocking Horse.

I believe this piece of playground equipment to be very old although it continues to be sold by the manufacturer. Due to its age the front panel has rusted through leaving a large rusty hole which could be dangerous especially to small children. To properly repair it would be costly and require the old metal to be cut out and a new piece fabricated and welded in. I have made and rivetted in a metal plate covering the hole so that it is inaccessible to small hands, this should prove a satisfactory repair for at least a number of years.

I was told by the manufacturer that the bearings were sealed units and do not normally require routine lubrication.

8. Playground gates.

These gates had been poorly fitted and become loose and out of adjustment. The slamming of the gates by the self-closing mechanisms inevitably caused the small screws to work loose, which in turn allowed the gates to drop and become misaligned, and hence they no longer closed correctly. These unsuitable screws have now been replaced with bolts.

9. Minor items.

There was a range of Low Risk items like loose nuts, missing screws and exposed threads which were simple and inexpensive to fix. I think I have taken care of most of these.

I have not attempted to replace the assorted missing plastic covers on various nuts and bolts as these are really not posing a danger; furthermore they work out ridiculously expensive. As an example, the Multiplay unit requires just one replacement cap; these cost £0.34 each but require a minimum purchase of 20 units, add the minimum shipping charge and VAT means that replacing the one missing plastic cap will cost £19! In future when purchasing new equipment which has such caps it would be sensible to purchase a few replacements at the same time, in fact it's quite possible the supplier will include these f.o.c.

I would certainly encourage the continued use of the annual inspection by this specialist company especially given the relatively small cost. Experience of this work directs the inspector to the vulnerable fittings and common faults as well as providing knowledge of current safety standards and requirements.

TREE WARDEN UPDATE

Lesley McKinnon attended the meeting and gave a verbal update on the progress of the trees that have been planted and plans to start a wild garden. Clerk and Lesley made arrangements to meet C&D Trees to look at the trees on the recreation ground and review the ash trees which are showing signs of Ash Dieback

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 10th August 2021