

Playgrounds Committee meeting held in the Parish Office on 17th October 2007 at 7.30pm.

Present Cllrs P Lightfoot (chair) P Taylor, J Habgood, J Stephens, J Peake, M Beresford. 12 Members of the public and Cllr P Richmond (Parish and Borough Councillor)

Welcome from Chair:

Cllr Lightfoot welcomed members of the public and noted that 3 members of the public indicated that they would like to speak, this included a spokesperson from those residents of Blackberry Grove that were present at the meeting.

Public Session:

Member of the public spoke of concerns regarding the parking of cars and road safety if the proposed play at Finlay Way proceeded.

Member of the public spoke in support of the play area and noted that there is a large number of children in the area that would benefit from the play area and that the residents had been waiting a long time. She personally had been informed by the housing developer who had built the houses in the area, when she had purchased her first house that there would be a play area on that site.

Member of the public spoke for the members of the Blackberry Grove focus group who were present at the meeting and stated that they were in support of the playground but had a number of serious concerns which he outlined and had prepared on a power point presentation which would then be forwarded electronically to the Council. The points outlined were:

Parking and road safety -Speed on Finlay Way

Parking around the open space – with 6 dog walkers

Being counted as parking over last few days.

Anti-social behaviour -

Policing levels

Parish Council response to damage/vandalism

Hedgerow and visibility

Concerns over hedge cutting to 1m height

Drainage needs consideration

Costs and management of maintenance and

upkeep

Existing Play areas -

Concerns over maintenance of existing play areas
Including full bins, tarmac broken, broken glass
and graffiti levels

Neighbouring Parish

A neighbouring Parish has a play area which was promoted by residents as an ideal model in terms of maintenance and upkeep.

Photographs of the existing play area in the Parish were presented by the Speaker. In closing the speaker stated that “we support this proposal and wanted to see the proposed layout, which we have seen tonight. Please involve

us in these meetings”

Copies of a prepared statement from some of the residents of Blackberry Grove were handed to the Clerk. A show of hands was taken by the residents of Blackberry Grove to indicate that representatives from 4 families with children were present .

End of public Session. The public remained.

1. Apologies were received from Cllr Ayres
2. Minutes of the previous meeting were noted and Cllr Habgood stated that he had presented a written report as well as a verbal feedback. The minutes were then proposed by Cllr Beresford and seconded by Cllr Taylor as a true and accurate record. All agreed,
3. Finlay Way Update presented by Cllr Taylor
Summary of public consultations were distributed to members and public present. **The following public consultations have taken place**
2 user group consultations-1 residents of local area-1 meeting with those expressing concern-5 contacts with local schools-400 hand delivered flyers-1 newspaper article
The parish Council has received
137 questionnaires returned at the public consultation events
5 emails and 9 statements from residents expressing concern
The Parish council has advertised in the local press requesting design companies to be involved in the design process. The Parish Council has had 5 meetings with 3 design companies who have submitted initial and then revised plans responding to the initial user group consultations.
The Parish Council has informed local Parish, Borough and County Councillors of the public consultation dates.
The final preferences from members of the public who have returned the questionnaires from the public consultations are
Design A – 36% **Design B - 50%** Design C – 12% No stated pref. 2%
Other points raised by the public were outlined.
Cllr Taylor proposed a resolution that the Committee note the summary and **accept the completion of the public consultation process including the preference of Option B as being the preferred choice of the public.** The resolution was seconded by Cllr Habgood and agreed unanimously.

Cllr Taylor stated that discussions with PC Russ had taken place re site of the equipment within the open space to reduce anti-social behaviour and the preferred site had been stated in an email to PC Russ and no contradiction had been received. In further discussions with PC Russ and residents – taking into account the stated concerns of the residents – The Committee would like to propose the position of the play

equipment as distributed on the scale plan B (eg further back from the Blackberry Grove edge of the grass area and along side the hedge of Finlay Way, with the equipment for the older children sited towards the back of the grass area.

It was noted that some residents had stated that it would be desirable for a 30m space between the front of houses and the positioning of equipment. The Committee agreed to consider this request.

Cllr Lightfoot noted that the exact positioning would be dependent on final design and agreement with TBC. Cllr Lightfoot also asked residents to note that the Parish had tried to engage with other agencies and would continue to do so.

Cllr Beresford stated that in his many years of experience of the play areas in Bishops Cleeve, that parking had not been a problem.

Cllr Taylor stated that future development plans in the Village would include some parking space which may help.

Cllr Taylor proposed the resolution that the Committee accept the preferred option B site plan as the positioning of the equipment subject to further discussions with the design company and the agreement of TBC Cllr Peake seconded and all agreed. It was agreed that the final design drawings would be made available to the public.

4. The Chair of the Committee stated that the following business would contain commercially sensitive information and at this point the public were asked to leave.

Competitive tenders from the 3 design companies were discussed and consideration given to variation in costs that may arise from different path lengths (dependent on position of equipment) and the safety surface preference of grass mat. Consideration was given to changing the bouncy toys to a roundabout for more play opportunities. Costs of the hedge cutting were taken into consideration. Revenue sources were discussed including the stated sum from TBC on completion of the transfer of the land and the completion of the approved design installation. The present and future capital budget of the playgrounds committee was discussed.

Cllr Taylor proposed that the Committee agree to finance Option B. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Stephens and all agreed.

The Clerk was instructed to invite Company B to meet with Councillors to discuss final design, costings and site plan.

5. Clerks report on actions from previous meeting.
Matters arising would be discuss under specified agenda items except for the following:
Book token purchased from Chairs' Allowance for the user group public consultation.
Possible blockage at the Millham Road brook would be discussed when Cllr Taylor visits area with Maintenance Contractor.
6. Review of Current Projects;

Refurbishment of Pecked Lane and Millham Road.

Cllr Taylor proposed that a replacement programme be considered for Pecked Lane as the Committee wished to see grass mat safety surfacing replace current wet pour areas to reduce risk of vandalism. It was agreed by the Committee for the Clerk to be instructed to obtain competitive tenders based on designs produced for Finlay Way. Budget to remain in line with current capital projects specified sums, unless Grants could be accessed from other sources. Cllrs Taylor and Habgood agreed to investigate further funding sources.

Kayte Lane Lease.

A reply had been received from Solicitors and after discussion it was proposed by Cllr Beresford that the Parish relinquish the lease. Cllr Taylor seconded and all agreed. The Clerk was instructed to write to GCC and Solicitors informing them of the Councils' decision not to renew the lease.

Vandalism update.

The costings for replacing the wet pour surface for safety matting were still awaited and the Clerk has been informed that the change of the surface would be more involved than putting grass mat down on a new piece of ground. Discussions took place regarding positioning the swings on new grass mat area outside of the enclosed area or putting a completely new area for all equipment on new area of grass. Cllr Beresford proposed that **a local contractor be used to remove the hard surfacing and base level over the winter and new earth/seed be put down ready for the growing season and Grass mat could then be set into the new grass.** The proposal was seconded by Cllr Peake and all agreed.

Grass cutting contract

The tenders received were discussed and it was proposed by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr Beresford that the **preferred Contractor would be G.** The clerk was instructed to engage in discussions with preferred contractor regarding removing Kayte Lane and adding in Finlay Way play area and to confirm that costings would still be valid. Matter to be brought to next meeting.

Cllr Taylor proposed that the Skate Park project now be brought into Current Projects from the forward plan. All Agreed

Cllr Habgood proposed that play equipment was needed in the South of the village and after discussion regarding the priorities of the forward plan it was agreed that Cllr Habgood would take the lead on "South Park" within the preferred site of the Sports Field.

7. Current budget/expenditure

Expenditure to date was noted

8. Consideration of quotations received

A quotation for the ditch clearance at the Sports field leading to the Cheltenham Road Culvert has been received and had been presented to the Sports field users group meeting. The Playground Committee agreed to request funding from the full Parish Council due to the extenuating circumstances that had occurred in July 07 – flood – that

had raised the urgent need for action to be taken on this particular piece of water course. It was agreed that the Playground Committee would seek to make realistic plans for brook clearance in future budget preparations. The clerk was instructed to discuss the work to be done and funding issues with GE Industries to try to engage in a holistic response.

9. Budget setting for 08/09

It was agreed that full discussions would take place at the next meeting and in preparation projected figures were distributed. The Clerk was requested to distribute projected figures for the Sports field before the next meeting.

10. Sports field users group update

Minutes were distributed from the meeting held on 11th October. Cllr Beresford brought the matter of the request for the grazing of livestock in the vicinity of the bowls club to the attention of the Committee. After discussions Cllr Beresford proposed and Cllr Lightfoot seconded that the request be declined. The Clerk was instructed to inform the resident

11. Playground weekly inspections

There were no new items to report. Cllr Taylor to accompany the Maintenance Contractor on Wednesday 7th November and to report back to the Committee

12. Correspondence received

Rooftop Housing association had raised concerns with County Councillor Jones at the meeting held on 17th September 2007 regarding trees in the vicinity of Pecked Lane /Minetts Avenue. It was agreed that Cllr Beresford would meet with representatives and mark the trees that were owned by the Parish Council.

A response had been received from Severn Vale Housing regarding a request for a meeting to discuss the brook at Millham Road and the issues of flooding. Cllr Taylor had pursued the matter as it appears that TBC and Parish Council each own half of the brook. Cllr Taylor agreed to discuss the matter further with TBC.

Date of next meeting 22nd November 2007 at 7.30 pm
Meeting Closed at 10.30 pm