**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT WILMCOTE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2015. NO. 77**

**1.** **Present**: Cllr. Ray, Chairman, Cllr. Roberts, Cllr. K. McMillan, Cllr. Stewart, Cllr. Shilvock.

**2.** **Apologies**: Cllr. Lowis who was abroad on business.

**3.** **Declarations of dispensations granted for Disclosable Pecuniary Interests already in the register of Members Interests**.

Cllr. Ray – Pecuniary interest in land identified in the Plan

Cllr. Roberts – Pecuniary interest in land identified in the Plan

Cllr. K. McMillan - Potential pecuniary interest in possible development of land identified in the Plan.

**4. Written requests for Disclosable Pecuniary Interests where that interest is not already in the register of members’ interests.**

No requests were received.

**5. Willow Wood Play Area: To consider advice from the playground Inspector, following a site meeting, and determine appropriate action.**

Following a discussion on site between the Clerk and Darren Hawthorne, playground Inspector, the advice given was not to remove just the swings/basket swing as agreed at the Parish Council meeting on 16th September. If anything, the whole structure should be removed as it is not the actual swings where the fault lies, it is the structure.

In his opinion removing the swings could encourage youths to swing from the structure/put ropes around it to swing from and also if they discover the middle post is a bit loose they could consider it fun to try and loosen it further.

The Inspector also suggested that it could be more cost effective to remove the structure when it has been decided what, if any, replacements are going to be made so that removal and replacement are done at the same time.

Guide quotations for similar replacements had already been obtained from Playground Supplies Ltd.. The Clerk had also obtained catalogues from two other suppliers for comparison prices and to see what alternatives may be available.

The Clerk had also discovered that there is a Saltex exhibition at the NEC on 4th/5th November where there will be several playground suppliers exhibiting, amongst them Playground Supplies Ltd. and The Childrens Playground Company.

Cllr. Ray asked each Cllr. in turn to express their opinions:

Cllr. McMillan was in favour of removing the actual swings without delay, any replacements should be steel structures, a visit to the Saltex exhibition and a second opinion sought.

Cllr. Stewart recommended removing the actual swings and her preferred replacements would be timber construction.

Cllr. Roberts felt that the whole structure should be removed without delay, not just the swings. He does not consider it necessary to install replacements in one operation, all options should be examined carefully before taking a decision about replacements units.

Cllr. Shilvock agreed that that the actual swings should be removed and time should be taken to look into what kind of equipment is available.

Cllr. Ray felt there is still as much risk by just taking the swings away and therefore the whole structure should be removed to remove all risk. Replacements should be steel and time should be taken to consider alternative options.

Cllr. Ray then asked for a show of hands on the following:

Removal of the actual swings and cradle swing. Cllrs. McMillan, Stewart and Shilvock for and Cllrs. Roberts and Ray against.

Removal of the complete structure. Cllrs. Roberts and Ray for and Cllrs. McMillan and Stewart against. Cllr. Shilvock abstained.

It was then proposed by Cllr. Ray that the actual swings be removed as soon as possible, notices placed on the structure advising that it is out of action and a second opinion obtained.

Cllrs. McMillan, Stewart and Shilvock were in favour of this proposal and Cllr. Roberts was against.

The annual inspection is due to take place towards the end of November by an independent company and the Clerk was asked to enquire whether this could be carried out during the first week of November for provision of the second opinion.

Cllrs. Ray and McMillan will attend the Saltex exhibition to obtain further ideas and information on playground equipment.

The Clerk reported on two further issues raised in the latest inspection report.

a) The seats are low on the Scale Swing. The Clerk has arranged for Playground Supplies Ltd. to make the adjustments when they carry out the routine inspection at the end of the month. The Clerk had asked Mrs. Compton if this was something Mr. Compton could do but she felt it was too much of a responsibility and preferred to leave it to the experts.

b) Pedestrian gates closing too quickly. A representative from Jacksons returned to re-adjust the gates and recommended that a post be put in place adjacent to both gates to prevent them being opened beyond 90 degrees and, hopefully, avoid further necessary adjustments. The Clerk was asked to arrange this with Mr. Compton. The posts should be roughly the height of the gates to avoid trip hazards.

There was no further business to discuss and the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40 p.m.