

Minutes of the Open Spaces and Play Parks Committee Meeting
Held in Colburn Village Hall on Monday 14th October 2024 at 5.30 pm

Present

Chair:- Cllr Wayne Garbutt

Councillors: Miles Burnham, Andrea Crowe, Angela Dale & Akuila Tutora

In attendance: Barry Robertson Ground Maintenance

Clerk; Philippa Graves (Angela Pickersgill on holiday)

1. **Apologies for absence** – none
2. **To receive Councillor “Declaration of Interests** – none received
3. To discuss **Matters Arising** from the Minutes of 9th September 2024
Molehills at Bridge Park – 2 moles have been caught, the area flattened and the problem is under control.
Wetpour issues at Piper Hill – wetpour separation is an ongoing maintenance issue. Last remedial work done July 2019 by RTC Safety Surfaces at a cost of £7966 +VAT. Cllr Crowe reported on how Northallerton have used back filling of soil in small corner areas and green baize in other areas. All avenues to be explored.
Hedgecutting at Albermarle Park – in hand with Barry Robertson to be carried out in conjunction with David Wood’s hedges adjacent.
4. To receive a **verbal report from the Groundsman** to include actions required from the **Annual Inspection** by RoSPA in September.
The Chair had met with the RoSPA Inspector on completion of the inspection and he commented on the good condition of the 7 play parks. There were no red alerts.
A Vote of Thanks was recorded for Barry Robertson for the high standard of his work which is much appreciated.
Barry had produced a table listing the ongoing “yellow” issues from the Annual report. These are held online for anyone to inspect. He will be working through the list noting when actions are completed and reporting monthly to the committee. It is a live document which will be updated.

To discuss how to **summarise the monthly Play Park reports** system to enable online recording of issues (currently in wasteful paper form only). Barry and Cllr Garbutt are working on a simple document which Barry can tick held on his tablet and this can be sent to the office and scrutinised at monthly meetings.

Site Meeting to be held on Fri 18th at 3.30 pm at Piper Hill to look at wetpour issues and continuing on to look at the over-growing trees at 32 Horseshoe Close

5. To discuss the quality of the recent limited drainage work carried out at **Marne Grange Play Park** (not currently maintained by the Town Council) and respond to the request for formal handover from Vistry, Adoptions Manager to Colburn Town Council.

Barry showed a video of the muddy Play Park full of puddles on completion of the work after some rain but not the subsequent heavy rain. The quality of the work was shoddy, leaving the hole in the tarmac for the gate uncovered which will quickly cause issues with water freezing etc. The recommendation was that until the original drainage plan of the whole Play Park (not just a strip by the gate) had been carried out with water directed off into Sour Beck,

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the Town Council could not formally adopt the Play Park. It would not pass an official RoSPA inspection and cost a huge amount of money to install the correct drainage.

To be **ratified at Town Council meeting on 21st October.**

6. To review the **Slabs at Colburn Drive** situation – reply from resident received (photos of old and current slab setting to be seen at meeting)
Cllr Garbutt reported that the slabs had now been lifted from the area so the matter was now closed. The erected signs showed ownership by the Town Council of the Green at Colburn Drive. Clerk to write to resident.
7. To discuss the arrangements for the **Christmas Tree, Colburn Sidings Woods and Tree maintenance** with the Groundsman to include branch removal at 32 Horseshoe Close – likely financial costs

Christmas Tree site opens in November and Barry would make the usual arrangements.
Tree Maintenance Sidings Woods – there is a large tree with a broken branch which will need taking down and Barry will provide a cost price. In future, there is a need to allow approx. £2000 annually for tree maintenance throughout Colburn.

32 Horseshoe Close – complaint from the house owner of the infringement of the Sidings Woods trees over their garden fence (photos shown at meeting). Unfortunately, the developers built this house extremely close to the existing mature woods. The house owner has the right to trim back branches growing over his hedge line but he is wanting a larger job than that as the trees are constantly growing. See item 4, site meeting to look at issues and report to next meeting.

8. To note **Litter Pick dates** from 19th October
Sat 2nd and 16th November
9. **Biodiversity Action Plan** – to note any opportunities in future plans.
Currently extension to Wild Flower area being organised by Rachel Richards of Buglife. The plan to seed on Monday 11th did not materialise as the area was incorrectly prepared and the contractor was coming back to complete the job. Notification of help in seeding would be made via the Whats App group chat for later in the week.
10. Date of next meeting – **Mon 11th November 2024 commencing at 5.30 pm**
11. Items for next Agenda
Plants required for 3 tier planter at The Broadway.
Help for tying up Poppies on Lamp posts – up by the 3rd and down by the 17th November

Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and meeting closed at 6.35 pm

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