

Minutes of the Open Spaces and Play Parks Committee Meeting
Held in Colburn Village Hall on Monday 7th April 2025 at 5.30 pm

Present

Chair: Cllr Andrea Crowe

Councillors: Angela Dale, Miles Burnham, Akuila Tutora & Paul Towers

In attendance: Barry Robertson Ground Maintenance & Cllr Maria Willets

Town Clerk: Philippa Graves

1. Apologies for absence - none

2. To receive Councillor "Declaration of Interests – none

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 3rd March 2025

Gardening Competition judging – gentleman who judged last year has agreed to judge again but will need someone local to go around with him as he does not know the area. He can only judge from 3 pm onwards and Cllr Crowe and other members cannot stand in. To ask at Town Council meeting on 14th April if any other councillors are willing to help judge.

Sponsorships of the blue tubs - have had 14 renew their sponsorship and 1 new sponsor. Has now been advertised on our social media page.

Goal Boards - have been welded and powder coated. The cost was **£300.00 + VAT.**

Groundsman reported that each joint had to be spot welded as they were poorly manufactured and they were now much more resilient. Members agreed the work was excellent and long lasting and there were 4 more to be done.

4. To receive an update from the Groundsman on progress addressing yellow issues in the **Annual Inspection** by RoSPA in September.

Groundsman will send over sheets for updating to the office as work is completed.

No additions to the reports until the Wetpour work has been carried out as that was the main outstanding issue highlighted by the Inspector.

5. Wet pour repair quotes

A quote had been received from **RTC Safety** for the sum of **£12,025 to carry out Wetpour repairs at 6 sites.** This was valid from 15th February for 30 days and they are unable to guarantee the bond between old and new wet pour which lasts approx. 4-5 years. They had carried out the original repair work 5 years ago. The work was sub-contracted and the quality of work was disappointing and the areas not well tidied up.

GB Sport quoted **£23,500 for wet pour repairs and artificial grass overlays with 7-year warranty.** They did not do a site visit and this quote was taken from google maps, they do not offer Wetpour repairs only.

Streetscape quoted **£17,995.00 for the wet pour repairs and £23,995.00 for Safa Matting work.**

The Groundsman explained the difference between a Wetpour repair and the new Safamat artificial grass matting system which carries a 7 year warranty. This had been extensively discussed with Matthew Day of Streetscape whilst visiting each of the parks involved. The grass matting is similar to laying carpet in a house, easy when the room is square but difficult when

Adrian
14/4/25

many joins are required for odd shapes. Our Play parks are of the old design with individual equipment dotted around which would result in joins which children could pull up. This would not be covered by the warranty and would be classed as vandalism and for this reason, the Safamatt system was not recommended. Matthew Day had checked the RoSPA reports to see what the inspector had logged.

After discussion the Committee **agreed to accept the Steetscape quote of £17,995 + VAT.** Streetscape had a high reputation for their work in this area (to be ratified at Town Council meeting Monday 14th April).

The RFO explained that the bill would be met by:-

£10,000 already provided in the 2025-26 budget

An underspend of £2500 in the 2024-25 accounts

£5000 would be taken from the Play Equipment reserve figure of £10,000

Because Wetpour repairs were an ongoing expenditure, the sum of £3000 annually would be added to the reserves to build a fund for the future. If new equipment was being installed, then the Safamatt system would be the likely choice.

6. Signage for Play Park litter bins

The Groundsman reported that the bin at Piper Hill was now being filled with such large bags of dogbags that it was difficult to empty (similar to a previous situation at Bridge Close). It was agreed to **purchase 4 more signs (same wording as Bridge Close sign) to be erected in Piper Hill, Albermarle, Chase 1 and Marne Grange Play Parks** as they were all on well used dog walking paths.

7. Ivy removal

The new date was arranged for **Sat 3rd May meeting at 12 o'clock, entrance to the Chase opp Woods Farm Drive.** Adults only to meet insurance requirements. Groundsman would be in charge, all councillors can help.

8. Litter pick dates

Dates planned – **10th and 24th May 2025.**

Dates to be notified to Julie Toombes, NYC at Mercury House for collection of bags.

9. Biodiversity Action Plan – to note any opportunities in future plans. Plan updated and reviewed from 9th January meeting

10. Date of next meeting – Mon 12 May 2025 commencing at 5.30 pm. Second Monday in month due to Bank Holiday

The Chair thanked everyone for attending. Meeting closed at 6.15 pm.
Cllr Dale had left the meeting at 6 pm.

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