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Minutes of the Open Spaces and Play Parks Committee Meeting Held in Colburn Village Hall on Monday 2nd November 2026 at 5.30 pm.

Present
Chair: Cllr Andrea Crowe
Councillors: Angela Dale, Janet Emmerson, Helen Grant, Brigette Martin, Maria Stewart & Aquila Tutora
Deputy Clerk: Angela Pickersgill
In Attendance: Cllr Paul Towers & Barry Robertson - Groundsman

1. **APOLOGIES RECEIVED** – None

2. **Councillor "DECLARATION OF INTERESTS"** – none

3. **Matters arising – Winter planting** has been delivered and planted and the Chair thanked Cllrs Dale & Grant for helping her with the planting. Cllr Emmerson was also thanked for planting all the raised beds with the perennials which were taken out of the tubs. **The poppies** were tied onto the lamp posts thanks to Cllrs Towers, Crowe, Dale, Martin and Tutora. Thanks to all those who helped in stormy weather with both items and grateful thanks to Cllr Dale who provided bacon sarnies to all the workers.

4. **Financial Expenditure Summary of the Open spaces**. - Committee happy with the financial summary.

5. **Groundsman report –** groundsman presented a list of jobs completed from the RoSPA list. He stated that there is quite a lot of work that will need to be carried out by an outside contractor. Report attached. Prices and quotes will need to be sourced for this work. The groundsman stated he was having trouble disposing of garden waste that he cuts back for the council and he is trying to find a solution. A tree at Colburn Sidings woods needs removing and the deputy clerk stated that a quote was required for the tree work.

6. **Litter Disposal**

Current arrangements

Following a detailed discussion, the groundsman explained that due to size, he is not allowed to take the trailer into the refuse site to dispose of litter. A friend has been helping him transport the bags to the site in his white van (allowed vehicle), but this arrangement cannot continue.

Reported disposal costs at present are

- Disposal charge: £5.20 per bag.
- Weekly volume: approximately 16 bags, costing £83.20.
- Monthly cost: £332.80, plus the groundsman's fuel costs.
- Annual cost based on the stated monthly figure: £3,993.60, plus fuel; the estimated total was approximately £4,000–£4,500.

The discussion highlighted the substantial cost of the current arrangements.

Options discussed

The groundsman suggested a skip or a trailer, but there was nowhere to store either. The final suggestion was a large bin stored at the Village Hall, subject to the Hall's permission.
Groundworks would be required at the Town Council's expense to provide a suitable storage area.
The walkway must remain clear because it serves as a fire exit.
It was **RESOLVED** that the office is to obtain quotations for the groundworks and prices for the bin which will be taken to the full council meeting for ratification.

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7. **Grass Matting Quote -** the quote to grass matting at the swing area at Piper Hill:
   - Removing the wet pour and turning the area to topsoil, new turf and then 21 squared metres of Safamat surfacing. The cost would be £2640 +VAT.
   - If the council preferred to move with this option, the company would be happy to carry out the works at the same price as the wet pour which is £2595.00.
   - There is a large quantity of grass matting which needs replacing as it has deteriorated over time. This will be a big cost to the council and various quotes will need to be obtained for this work.
   - Cllr Crowe informed the committee of a green baize surface which they have at Northallerton. Office to enquire regarding this material and source companies for quotes.

8. **Re-instatement of regular play park inspections –** Cllr Stewart will re-start her inspections with the groundsman and Cllrs and the deputy clerk will do regular independent inspections of the play parks monthly or bi-monthly.

9. **Christmas tree sponsor and decorated windows update for Christmas tree switch on** - the office sent a letter to Siesta coffee regarding the sponsor of the tree but no reply. Letters have been hand delivered to the businesses on the Broadway. The deputy clerk spoke to some businesses, and they are happy to take part and light up their windows. The Christmas tree has been picked and the switch on will take place on Thursday 26th November. The office has written to the Co-op & Tesco asking if they could kindly donate any sweets or biscuits for the evening. If any councillor would like to donate anything it would be gratefully received.

10. **Biodiversity Action Plan – up to date,** no new entries or comments to add.

11. **Date of next meeting -** Monday 7th December 2026.

13. **Items for next agenda** –An update on the blue benches at Broadway

Meeting closed 6.30 pm.