

# Wonersh Parish Council

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## **Minutes of the extra ordinary meeting of Wonersh Parish Council held on Thursday 1 December 2022 at 10.15am, at the Wonersh Sports Pavilion.**

**Present:** Cllrs Mike Band, Chris Crouch, Chris Howard, Ben Knight, Stephen Lavender and Anthony Shutes (Chair).

### **22/23 174 To receive and accept apologies for absence.**

The Council received and accepted apologies for absence from Cllr Jonathan Jenner.

### **22/23 175 Wonersh Parish Code of Conduct – Declarations of disclosable interests and if requested consideration and approval of dispensations under the Code.**

There were no declarations of disclosable interests.

### **22/23 176 Open meeting for members of the public to raise matters about planning issues.**

There were no members of the public present.

### **22/23 177 Finance – to receive the reports relating to the repair and rejuvenation of the playgrounds and approve next steps, including the following:**

The Council received the report from the Clerk and thanked her and the Councillors and Working Party members who are investing time to understand how best to respond to safety concerns in relation to the playgrounds.

The discussed the recommendations of the report and approved the following.

- (a) payment of up to £4,245.00 for the removal of up to seven items of play equipment in Wonersh Playground and up to five items of play equipment in Lords Hill, in response to the annual and routine safety inspections;**

The Council resolved to remove five items of play equipment from each playground in response to annual and routine safety inspections and the lack of an economically viable option for repair. The deferred a decision on the removal of the Table Tennis Tables to a later date to be considered as part of the rejuvenation of the playgrounds. The Council awarded the contract for the removal of play equipment to AEM Contractors at a value of £2,835.00

- (b) payment of up to £5,000 for the repair of play equipment across each playground;**

The Council reviewed and approved the items to be repaired and resolved to approve payment of £3,724.20 to Playscene for the repair of two items of play equipment in each playground. They also approved payment of £2,071 for the repair and maintenance of the rocking horse, noting that resident donations had also been offered in relation to this item of play equipment. This will also be awarded to Playscene.

- (c) the payment of up to £9,448.00 for the maintenance of play equipment and play surfaces in each playground; and**

The Council discussed this and highlighted the ongoing concerns regarding the cost of maintaining the barked areas in the Wonersh Playground. Noting that soon the surfacing

would need changing, to grass matting where appropriate, or the surfaces underneath the barked areas would need levelled and lined and the bark regularly raked, it was agreed that resurfacing of these areas would be considered as part of the playgrounds' rejuvenation. At this point the Council approved filling the junior multi-play area and under the higher end of the toddler area, given the height of each. The other areas will be delayed pending further investigation.

Regarding the repairs, Council resolved to approve expenditure up to £7,679.60 and awarded this to Playscene.

- (d) the allocation of funds to come from the following sources (i) £2,910 playgrounds maintenance budget for 2022/23, (ii) £7,500 playgrounds projects allocated reserve, and (iii) up to £8,283 from unallocated reserves / resident contributions.**

Council noted that payment of up to £14,238.80 was approved across 22/23 177 (a) - (c) above and that (i) £2,910 would come from the remaining amounts under playgrounds repair and maintenance; (ii) £7,500 from the allocated reserve for playground projects; and (iii) the remaining amount of up to £3,828.80 would come from the allocated reserve for long term capital projects, thus avoiding depleting the unallocated reserves to an unsustainable level.

The Council agreed to the intention of returning this amount to the allocated reserve for long term capital projects, over the next three financial years, from the playgrounds' maintenance budget. The removal of obsolete and financially unviable equipment should theoretically reduce expenditure under this budget category, allowing this to occur without significant increases to the budget allocation. The Neighbourhood CIL could potentially be used to fund new equipment, subject to Council approval.

The council discussed the need to publicise the decisions of the Council with respect to repairs, maintenance and approval and the plans of the playgrounds rejuvenation working party regarding fundraising and future investments in the parish playgrounds.

**Action: Clerk to inform contractors and contributors**

**Assistant to the Clerk to note approvals and budget allocations, and arrange for contributions to be received by the Council**

**Cllrs Lavender and Howard and the Playgrounds Rejuvenation Working Party members to inform the public through a report for the website, the noticeboard upon installation and an in-person event early in the new year.**

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