

Maintenance of Play and Skatepark Equipment

The parish council has an existing service level agreement with West Suffolk Council (running to 31st March 2022) for the monthly operational play area inspections and independent annual play area audit. This service is provided by West Suffolk and is part of the council's risk management system.

The monthly reports identify any items of equipment which require attention, replacement and allocate a risk rating to them. Recent items which have been identified as low risk include:

1. Wear to surface on half pipe at skate park
2. Upgrading matting at pedestrian entrance to Cemetery Road play park & backfill.
3. Replacement of damaged palings to fence at Cemetery Road
4. Replacement of chains for swings at cemetery road
5. Replacement of bushes to basket swing at cemetery road
6. Replacement of bearing to Rotor Play Spinning Pole in play park at cemetery road.
7. Monitoring of swing posts at Bury Road
8. Monitoring of fence at Bury Road

Excerpts from the reports detailing these items are set out at **Appendix A**.

The legal basis for the parish council to maintain play areas is contained in:

- Public Health Act 1875, s.164
- Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19

Remaining funds in the parish council's revenue approved budget for 2021/22 are:

- Playground Cemetery Road £663.68 against £750.00 (play areas maintenance)
- Playground Bury Road £250.00 against £250.00 (play areas maintenance)

The parish council approved the following revenue in the its budget for 2022/23:

- Playground Cemetery Road £750.00 (play areas maintenance)
- Playground Bury Road £250.00 (play areas maintenance)
- MUGA & Skate Park £1000.00 (includes £750 bi-annual zip wire inspection)

The parish council holds earmarked reserves for play equipment maintenance of £1775.00. Any spend from reserves would need to be authorised by full council.

Costs of replacement equipment (bearings, bushes, chains and surface for quarter pipe at skate park) have been requested from four play companies, but there has been a significant delay on responses from companies approached. In order to ensure that the work identified for Cemetery Road Play Park (2, 4, 5 & 6) can be addressed from funds in the current revenue budget councillors are asked to authorise the cost of purchasing and fitting materials up to £663.68 plus VAT.

An advance authorisation for the clerk to purchase replacement equipment identified under the inspections (including, where necessary, the cost of fitting replacements) carried out as part of the service level agreement (low risk or greater) would ensure that any issues arising can be dealt with in a timely manner, in accordance with the parish councils Risk Management Policy.



Recommendation:

The Estates Committee authorise the purchase of replacement equipment (2, 4, 5 & 6) and fitting for Cemetery Road Play Park, as identified in report WPC.EC.22.02.03, to a maximum of £663.68 plus VAT; and

The Estates Committee authorise the clerk to purchase replacement equipment as identified under the monthly inspections undertaken in accordance with the service level agreement (low risk or greater) with West Suffolk Council during the financial year 2022/23 upto:




- **Playground Cemetery Road £750.00 plus VAT (play areas maintenance)**
- **Playground Bury Road £250.00 plus VAT (play areas maintenance)**
- **MUGA & Skate Park £1000.00 plus VAT (includes £750 bi-annual zip wire inspection)**

Skate Park:

8 - Low Risk (Finding 2)			
Item:	Wheeled Sports - Quarter Pipe	Risk Level:	L - Low Risk
Manufacturer:	Eibe Play Ltd	Surface:	Tarmac
			
Finding: The riding surface of the ramp has some damage apparent		Action: Monitor for any further deterioration and repair as required	

Fenland

Cemetery Road Pocket Park:

8 - Low Risk (Finding 1)			
Item:	Gates - Gate - Self Closing	Risk Level:	L - Low Risk
Manufacturer:	Not Identified	Surface:	Grass
			
			
Finding: There are trip hazards at the edges of the surface		Action: Reinststate surrounding surface levels to remove the trip points	

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6 - Low Risk (Finding 1)

Item:	Fences - Fencing - Timber	Risk Level:	L - Low Risk
Manufacturer:	Not Identified	Surface:	Grass

Finding: Area of timber damaged

Action: Replace missing part

8 - Low Risk (Finding 1)

Item:	Swings - 2 Bay 2 Flat 1 Basket Seat	Risk Level:	L - Low Risk
Manufacturer:	Miracle Recreation Equipment Company	Surface:	Grass Matrix Tiles

Finding: There is some notable evidence of chain wear

Action: Monitor for any further deterioration and replace when 40% worn

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4 - Very Low Risk (Finding 2)

Item:	Swings - 2 Bay 2 Flat 1 Basket Seat	Risk Level:	V - Very Low Risk
Manufacturer:	Miracle Recreation Equipment Company	Surface:	Grass Matrix Tiles

A photograph of a swing set with a blue frame and a yellow basket seat. The swing is on a grassy area with grass matrix tiles.

A close-up photograph of the basket seat, showing the blue mesh and the metal frame. The seat is mounted on a yellow pole.

Finding: The basket bushes are showing signs of wear

Action: Monitor for any further deterioration and replace as required

4 - Very Low Risk (Finding 1)

Item:	Rotor Play - Spinning Pole	Risk Level:	V - Very Low Risk
Manufacturer:	Little Tikes	Surface:	Grass Matrix Tiles

A photograph of a blue rotor play spinning pole with a white base, located on a grassy area with grass matrix tiles.

A large white circle with the text "NO IMAGE APPLICABLE" inside.

Finding: Minor wear in bearing

Action: Monitor for deterioration

6 - Low Risk (Finding 1)

Item:	Swings - 1 Bay Mixed Seat, 1 Cradle, 1 Flat	Risk Level:	L - Low Risk
Manufacturer:	Playdale Playgrounds Ltd	Surface:	Grass Matrix Tiles

A photograph of a swing set with a wooden frame and a mixed seat, located on a grassy area with grass matrix tiles.

A close-up photograph of a wooden post, showing some damage and rot at the base.

Finding: There is some strimmer / machinery damage apparent on the posts, this can penetrate the preservative applied to the timber and accelerate the rotting process

Action: Monitor for any deterioration (rot) and replace as required

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6 - Low Risk (Finding 1)

Item:	Fences - Fence - Chainlink	Risk Level:	L - Low Risk
Manufacturer:	Unknown	Surface:	Grass

Finding: There is some damage to the fence sections

Action: Monitor for any further deterioration and repair as required

2 - Very Low Risk (Finding 1)

Item:	Ancillary Items - Bench	Risk Level:	V - Very Low Risk
Manufacturer:	Unknown	Surface:	Grass

Finding: Bench securing footing slightly loose

Action: These continue to deter theft and keep the bench in place.