

Maintenance of Play and Skatepark Equipment

The parish council has an existing service level agreement with West Suffolk Council (running to 31st March 2023) 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 were identified as low risk but have been addressed in the current financial year 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. Removal of Rotor Play Spinning Pole in play park at Cemetery Road (beyond repair).
7. Monitoring of swing posts at Bury Road
8. Monitoring of fence at Bury Road

Current low risk items identified in the reports are set out at below.

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 2022/23 are:

- Playground Cemetery Road £134.88 against £1278.80¹ (play areas maintenance)
- Playground Bury Road £250.00 against £250.00 (play areas maintenance)

The parish council approved the following revenue in its budget for 2023/24:

- Playground Cemetery Road £1000.00 (play areas maintenance)
- Playground Bury Road £500.00 (play areas maintenance)
- MUGA & Skate Park £500.00 (No bi-annual zip wire inspection 2023)

The parish council holds earmarked reserves for play equipment maintenance of £1275.00. Any spend from reserves would need to be authorised by full council.

Costs of replacement equipment buffers for the Monorail at Cemetery Road have been requested from Online Playgrounds and other companies, but there has been a significant delay on responses from companies approached. Online Playgrounds has approached the original manufacturers, Miracle Play, who are based in the United States.

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) does 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 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 2023/24 up to:

- **Playground Cemetery Road £1000.00 plus VAT (play areas maintenance)**
- **Playground Bury Road £500.00 plus VAT (play areas maintenance)**
- **MUGA & Skate Park £500.00 plus VAT (no bi-annual zip wire inspection)**

¹ After adjusted budget April '22