

**AMENITIES MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY 12th JANUARY 2021 AT 19.00 VIA WEBEX MEETINGS**

Attendees.

Cllr R Carnell

Cllr D Palethorpe (Chairman)

Cllr R Farrow (Host)

Cllr J Ranjit

Cllr M Hutchings

Cllr A Armitage

The meeting opened at 7pm

1. The Chairman will open the meeting and receive apologies: **All invitees in attendance**.
2. To declare interests arising at this meeting and to consider any dispensation requests relating to this meeting. **None**
3. The Council will adjourn for the following items: **Public Question Time**: A period of 10 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions or make comment regarding the work of the Council or other items that affect Ipplepen**:**

**Four members of the public** attended the meeting with questions and comments on the current status and plans for the skatepark. There followed a Q & A session. Questions were noted and Cllr Palethorpe gave a complete summary of the rationale of the council’s actions and proposals to date (see 4a below). Each of the members of the public stated how important the skatepark is for the community and offered information and support for a skatepark project. At the end of this session Cllr Palethorpe and Cllr Carnell thanked the public representatives for their interest. Cllr Palethorpe said that a community project needed to be set up so that a team and plan of action could be set in motion. **Action – Cllr Palethorpe to take this forward,** initially receiving and compiling contact details of the public who would like to be involved in some way. For additional detail on skatepark status refer to paragraph 4a below.

1. The council will convene to conduct the following business

4a) Skatepark – future action.

Summary of Skatepark current status provided by Cllr Palethorpe….

“ We have an independent annual inspection for all play equipment including the skatepark carried out.

Over the past 5 years the skatepark has had substantial repairs carried out to the running surfaces including complete re-plating of the quarter pipe and half-pipe and also patching where required. We have also had repairs carried out regarding an ongoing problem of the ‘lip’ of the surfaces where they abut the ground being outside of the tolerance.

The cost to the Parish taxpayers has been in the region of £10,000 over the past 5 years and once again this year further cost will be necessary due to the inspectors’ assessment that it is High Risk.

The Council has also been putting an average of £3,000 a year into an earmarked skatepark reserve for a number of years which this year will be a total of £21,000

As a Parish Council we cannot ignore or turn a blind eye to the findings of the inspector.

The way to look at this is that it is similar to having a vehicle that fails its MOT, you can’t drive it away and if it is serious, a decision has to be taken on whether it should be scrapped and replaced.

There are a number of options available to us

I have contacted Skateboard England, The Skateboard Project and also Maverick Skatepark Industries asking for assistance and advice on how to take the skatepark project forward.

GBH Ramps who installed the skatepark in 2003 was dissolved as a company in 2009

The average cost of constructing a skatepark is £45/sq foot 465 sq ft -£21000

To replace like for like would cost circa £120k -£150K.

Options:

1. Ask the inspector to return
2. Remove all of the sides of the skatepark and have a full detailed inspection of the sub-structure carried out with a view to, a) If condemned removal, b) if structurally sound a complete re-plating of the skatepark.
3. Removal and replacement on a phased basis.
4. If funding is available full replacement.
5. Replacement with a smaller skatepark

*Reference sites/examples considered during this review: Exeter Arena, Cullompton (example cost £60k, 12 years ago), Chagford, Bowery Tracey.”*

4b) Benches – removal/replacement

Two picnic benches and one ‘ordinary’ bench need to be removed to the industrial estate. **Action – Cllr Palethorpe and Cllr Ranjit to arrange this.**

Cllr Palethorpe noted that the ‘ordinary’ bench had a memorial nameplate attached to it and suggested that this should be removed and fitted to one of the new or remaining ‘substantial’ benches. **This suggestion was agreed by all present.**

4c) Recreation play equipment.

Cllr Palethorpe has spoken to Outdoor Play UK to get them to provide individual quotes for repair and/or replacement of damaged Adventure Trail items**. Action Cllr Palethorpe and Cllr Armitage to meet Rhino Play at the recreation ground on 15th January to request similar comparative quotes.**

Cllr Palethorpe reported that:

- HMS Ipplepen will be fitted on either 15th or the 22nd January.

- Damaged netting on equipment in the senior area of the playpark may be beyond repair in which case it will have to be removed.

4d) Ipplepen – lockdown response

Cllr Palethorpe reminded attendees to be alert to the fact that any government lockdown instruction changes over the next few days and weeks may require us to rapidly change or close down facilities that are currently available to the public.

4e) Cllr Hutchings advised that the nursery on North Street would be able to provide a tree for the Toddlers area. Cost would be £30.

5) To note the date of the next meeting: **Tuesday 9th February 2021**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.00pm.