**Minutes from Parks Subcommittee Meeting 31.07.24**

**Attendance:** Cllr A Stevens (Chair), Cllr A. Parrington, Cllr H. Maurice-Jones, Cllr L. Rowlands, Cllr L Todd, Cllr M. Gledhill, Cllr N. Roberts, Cllr P Morris, Cllr W. Cleaver and the Clerk.

Apologies – Cllr M Woods.

*Toddler Play Area Project:*

The meeting started with a brief discussion regarding any further updates that would potential be made to the rest of the park for older children’s equipment. It was suggested approaching ESP Play parks directly about producing a scheme for what they could install for us. The current pieces of equipment that were thought suitable to be removed where the toddler swings, the spring scooter, the roundabout and the bucket swings. It was suggested one of the bucket swings could replace a swing in the centre of the park though.

The park inspection report had come back with a few minor risks but all were of low or very low risk and so the park was able to be opened, which had happened on Saturday 27th July. The Clerk confirmed that she had begun completing the funding forms for Cadwyn Clwyd for the reimbursement of the funding money. There was one last instalment of £3000 to pay off, which had been held of the second invoice as a retention fee for not completing the project at the time. It was agreed this would be paid off as soon as possible in order to complete the forms and also for the VAT reclaim to be completed. There had been some really good feedback already, particularly the sensory pieces of equipment being a great addition. The Clerk confirmed the official sign for the fence was in progress.

*Grounds Maintenance*

It was agreed that Cllrs L Rowland and A Parrington would do a walk around with the new gardener Lee Woodworth to clarify some points on the jobs list regarding strimming etc.

Cllr L Rowland reported that Mountain View had been sprayed with weed killer which was starting to work but it was decided the saplings would need pulling up so working party would be organised for this. The hedge that had caused issues in the past had been removed now by the property owner and replaced with a large fence. Cllr L Rowland mentioned a few pieces of equipment there would need to be repainted soon and also a new cradle swing had been installed to replace a broken one.

Cllr W Cleaver reported there had been good feedback about Greenfields since it had been reopened. The Clerk was still in progress of trying to find out who has ownership of the ditch there. Cllr H Maurice-Jones reported she had some trees (one beech and two crimson kings) that could be planted there in the autumn. Cllr A Steven requested Cllr W Cleaver take back his safety gates that were still there.

It was mentioned that both wardens had been seen using machinery without wearing their Hi-Vis wear. The Clerk would send a reminder to them both.

*Castle Green:*

It had been noted to the council that there was potentially some money to be acquired from the Castle Green Home developments. The Clerk had not yet been approached by the developers but would speak to the Hwb Board who had received contact from them. Until there were more details about what this could potential become, there wouldn’t be able to be any decisions made on this.

Cllr A Parrington did mention though that with hopes of being able to further develop the main park, the council should get an online survey/questionnaire out to the school children of Darland to find out what type of equipment they would favour in the park. Cllr L Todd also suggested trying to organise an in-person survey with the children who actually came into the park after school one day. This would then give more of an insight from the ones that actually go to use the park.

It was decided that if there was potential money to be gained from the Castle Green Development, it would be important that the council did acquire it and made good use of it.

*AOB:*

Cllr L Rowland reported there was a dead tree in park and it needed removing. It was small enough for a working party so Cllr A Steven would take another look and then organise a group with Park Warden Ollie to remove it. There was also some rubbish on top of the shelter in the park so the Clerk would request Ollie to remove this.

It was agreed that the council would ask Mike Polleta to cut the usual hedges after the summer again.

Cllr H Maurice-Jones reported there were some remaining lavender plants left over from the Village Hall event plant stall so she would be planting this in the village. There were bulbs that had been kept from last year that could be planted around the village so she requested any suggestions for places to plant to be sent to her. She also mentioned that the barrels on the roundabout were looking tired and would probably need replacing in the next year or two. Cllr A Parrington suggested asking Ollie to make some new troughs or buy a few new ones. Just replacing a few a year meant there wouldn’t be a huge cost at anyone time for them.

Cllr P Morris updated on the current Hwb standings. The fences were due to be removed at the end of August and so the Hwb would take over at that point. There was an area that would be need to be turfed where the construction company had removed their container. The Hwb would be able to sort this but it had been agreed by the finance committee that the Council would pay a part cost towards this. He also reported that a shed would also be purchased on the councils behalf for the wardens to move the equipment back into.

The meeting ended.