

Drinkstone Parish Council

Playing Field

Report to the Annual Parish Meeting (AGM) Dated 8th May 2017

Agenda Item 3a.2; Parish Council Report (Recreation ground)

It's been my Second year as a councillor and being responsible for the Recreation ground "The Cricket" and all the children's play equipment. It's has been another quite year with no major problems arising, the following list represents the work carried out during the year;

a. Dog Fouling on the park

This is still by far the mayor issue for many people using the park. From people just walking the area to sporting activities using the main football pitch and most importantly the children's play equipment/areas!

As I said last year, we have come a long way in this matter and still only the occasional report of a problem. However back in early spring when we had the unseasonal good weather we had a sudden outbreak of the problem again! So a poignant one page reminded was printed in the parish magazine reminding the dog owners of their responsibilities. This has seemed to have done the trick, we shall carry on monitoring.

b. Weekly park & playground equipment inspections

As I said in last year's AGM report the inspections were being carried out by myself, the main reason for this was to get a better understanding of the park, equipment and the park users. Since then I have attended a county council run training course on play equipment inspection, which was very in-depth and informative. So to keep uniformity in the inspections I shall carry on doing them myself.

c. Annual Playground Equipment Inspection

This was carried out by The Play Inspection Company Ltd back in August of last year (Ref: 16529) and is available to view on the village web site. The equipment was deemed safe to use with a "Risk Assessment 8-Low Risk"

with only minor maintenance recommendations. These were reviewed and reported to the full council.

d. Maintenance carried out to the Play Equipment

The main recommendation from the report (Ref:16529) was as last year, that the matrix matting under the large two seat swing set needs to be reinstated. The small swing set had been done several months earlier and I was waiting for the inspection results to make sure the work I carried out was correct before starting on the large swing set. All was good so with the help of the windmill gang of volunteers the matrix matting was lifted cleaned and relayed. The total cost for the materials for both swing sets came to £135.48. (Quoted cost approx. £2500.00) So far the DIY approach has saved the village a considerable amount of money! I would like to say a big thank you to the “Windmill gang” for their help. Other maintenance jobs have taken place though out the year, such as grass cutting and weeding around the climbing frames, making good some minor damage to wooden sectionsetc.

e. There has been one report of tree damage. This was a minor incident when a large lorry (probably the Bin collection lorry) had snagged a large over hanging branch of a cherry tree along the top end of the play field along Cross Street. As I have the necessary equipment and insurance I made good the tree and cleared the branch and area.

f. So I believe the park is in good shape and keeps being an asset and pleasant place in the village of Drinkstone.

Prepared by Cllr Hembra