

Malmesbury Town Council
Town Hall and Facilities Committee meeting 11.9.19
Report No.2

Parks and Open Spaces Report

I. Newton Grove

Newnton Grove Play Equipment was installed at the end of July. At a Subsequent site visit, in conversation with a mother, it was suggested this was a positive development and helped to secure the space for the needs of younger children.

There is a possible 'phase two' at this site, where the swings and their surfacing could be refreshed, along with the removal of the 'arched' climber, and possible replacement with a small roundabout.

II. St Aldhelms Gym

The Outdoor Gym is booked and has a target date for installation of the 1st October. The section 106 fund have been agreed by Wiltshire Council.

III. St Aldhelms play area- Zip Wire

A new seat was installed to the zip wire, which has suffered repeated dog damage. The installation was completed at the same time as a press release with myself and the Police, to raise awareness of the issue. In almost the twenty four hours of fixing the new seat, there was some signs of dog damage. However this has not continued at the time of writing this report.

IV. White Lion benches

Two of the wooden benches at White Lions Park have been removed due to poor repair and wood rot.

V. To consider the need for pressure washing play areas as part of an annual maintenance programme

There is algae growth at all the parks on the fabricated play equipment surfaces and signs. It would be prudent to feature a periodic pressure washing as part of a maintenance schedule for the parks. The purchase of a suitable washer and reservoir would be impractical for the Council to house and operate. If the Committee wanted to proceed, quotes would need to be obtained from an independent contractor to do work.

The Committee are asked to consider this matter and instruct the Town Clerk accordingly.

VI. Community engagement

There have been a number of enquiries from residents as a result of the Council's newsletter inviting residents to get involved in the 'management' of the parks and play areas. Notably Filands, and Newton Grove. Equally there was contact from one of the White Lion residents who commented she thought the residents group had run its course.

AS Community Engagement is an aspect of the Councils strategy, and as this has been made known, I think it could be important and timely to organise an initial engagement event (or meeting) to provide the right participatory facility as soon as possible.

Richard Spencer- Williams – Town Clerk 21.5.19