

Elsenham Parish Council

Playing Field Committee Meeting held at 8.00pm in Old Franks, Elsenham on Wednesday 27 March 2024

MINUTES

Present:

Mrs. B Donald (Acting Chair BD), Mrs. F Lambert (FL), Mr. J Minor (JM),
Dr. G Mott (GM) and Mrs. L Johnson (Parish Clerk, LJ)

Members of the public: 0

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Mr. P Jarvis (PJ) and Mrs. S Waite (SW).
- 2. Declaration of Interests:** None
- 3. Open to the public:** None.
- 4. Approval of the minutes held on 28 February 2024.**
The minutes of the meeting were agreed by all members and signed by the Chair BD.
- 5. Items brought forward from the meeting on 28 February 2024.**
 - 5.1. Weeds in the Children's play area and open space on Isabel Drive.**
A working group met on Saturday 23 March 2024 to weed the children's play area on Isabel Drive. Despite the rain a very good job was done. However, there is still the other side of the path which has twice the number of weeds. SW is meeting with Mick Burke to ask for a quote to complete the weeding. Some of the timber may also need replacing, a further quote would be required for this.
 - 5.2. Weeds in Leigh Way.**
The weeds along Leigh Way are now dead. LJ to ask Mick Burke to remove them.
 - 5.3. Playing area litter bins.** Completed.
 - 5.4. Regular maintenance on the new equipment.**
Regular maintenance is recommended on the roundabout. The bearing needs greasing annually using the inspection hatch found in the deck, to prevent premature wear of the bearing.
 - 5.5. Reply to Ricky's email on 30 January 2024.** Completed.
 - 5.6. Grass growing through the new paths in the children's play area.**
On the 16 March Dania said they would be visiting early in the week to treat the grass growing in the rubber mulch. This does not look as if it has been done. LJ to chase.

5.7. Body-fit bootcamp, proof of liability insurance. Insurance received.

5.8. Is Dania guarantee for the play equipment an insurance backed guarantee?

On 16 March Dania wrote saying they had queried this with the supplier and would get back to EPC when they have an answer.

5.9. Paths in the children's play area.

GM produced a map of the extra paths required in the children's play area. The paths are to go over the muddy areas, these are the routes the children are taking from one piece of equipment to another. The map is not to scale. The paths are labeled on the map A – J, with A being the most crucial. Paths would be 1 metre wide. The approximate total is 77sq meters. With the prices quoted from Diana, the £4,000 in the budget for paths would only pay for 34 sq metres, which would cover paths A and B only. EPC could either do the new paths in stages, putting more funds in the budget for 2025/26. Or, if completed altogether, extra funding would be required. LJ pointed out that it is important the paths are completed. Many people have asked for extra paths in this area, and this would be something tangible for residents to see what EPC do with some of the council tax and to prove that they listen.

6. Playing Field and Play Area

Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund grant. EPC has still not received the grant funding. The Lawn Doctor's Contract – communication with the football club.

It had been agreed that the Football Club would oversee the technical side of the pitch maintenance, making sure that The Lawn Doctor carried out all the maintenance required and that the invoices were correctly itemized. The invoices would then be sent to LJ for payment. LJ to email Ricky Lambourn, Chair of the Football Club, setting out their part of the agreement.

A meeting is still to be arranged between the Football Club and members of the Finance, Playing Field and Community Centre committees.

Nathan Colley had contacted EPC on behalf of the Ambulance services, asking to hire a football pitch on the Elsenham Playing Field, for a match on 27th April, from 1.00pm. Ricky had confirmed that a pitch would be available. Members were happy to authorize this. LJ to email Nathan with confirmation. LJ to contact Alex Lambourn informing her of the match and suggesting that she may like to make her coffee van available. As EPC do not charge Alex for selling coffees on the playing field, LJ to suggest that it would be a nice gesture if she made a donation to the Ambulance Service.

The three trees organized by Tom Moat, Senior Forestry and Woodland Officer at Essex County Council have now been planted in the playing fields near the Bowls Club hedge. The question had been raised about who would water the trees. GM thought that Tom Moat had said that the watering of the trees is all included in the package. Until this is established it was agreed to ask SW to water them.

7. Outdoor Gym.

The survey is to be placed on Facebook, stating this equipment will be free to use, adding photos of the gym pieces so it is clear that the equipment is nothing like that on the trim trail. Asking residents if they thought a gym was a good idea, would they use it and when.

8. Isabel Drive play area.

The moving of the litter bin should be done within the next two weeks.

9. AOB.

There is a bag of sand in the children' play area. LJ to ask Micke Burke to remove it.

It was agreed that the grass along the knee-high fence in the playing field should not be cut until all the daffodils have died off. LJ to inform the grass cutter.

10. The next meeting will be held on 24 April 2024 at 7.00pm.