

Playing Field Committee Meeting
held at 7.00pm in Old Franks, Elsenham
Wednesday 25 June 2025
MINUTES

Present:

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

1. Apologies for absence.

Mr. P Jarvis (PJ).

2. Declaration of Interests.

BD is a member of EAGLES.

3. Open to the public.

None present

4. Approval of the minutes held on 28 May 2025.

The minutes were signed by SW as a true and accurate record.

5. Items brought forward from the meeting on 28 May 2025.

- **No dog signs in the playing field.**

Both 'No Dogs' signs have been installed. One on the corner of the playing field near the top car park the other on the gate in Leigh Way.

- **All the equipment should be pressure-washed.**

Confirmation was required whether the equipment and surfaces needed doing. This was confirmed. LJ is to contact Mick.

- **EPC provides a chain-link fence to stop footballs going onto the area of heavy bramble in the playing field.**

EYFC have confirmed they would like EPC to erect a chain-link fence. LJ to obtain quotes.

- **Memorial Bench for Lucie.**

GM asked about Lucie's bench.

Lucie's family would like a Memorial Bench to be placed in the LAP. The family are going to pay for the bench and instalment. Currently, BD is waiting for the family to decide on the bench.

6. Budget Update.

Playing field Maintenance - £2,314.

Play equipment maintenance - £2,961.

New Play equipment is - £1,000.

EMR

Section 106 Isabel Drive £43,488 - up to £3,000 of this fund has been agreed for EAGLES.

Playground Equipment - £3,027.

P/F Hard Surfaces - £4,000.

7. Isabel Drive Play area.

An onsite meeting was held on 1 June. SW, FL and BD had agreed that the surfaces needed redoing and maybe a picnic table could be installed. Members wanted to keep the small train.

GM Proposed; that the Committee go out to tender for improvements to the Isabel Drive play area, this is to include replacement of the train and carriages by one or two new pieces of equipment, and improvements to the surface.
There was no seconded, so the vote did not go ahead.

SW proposed; that the committee go out to tender for improvement to the surfaces in the Isabel play area. Safety surfaces under the play equipment and bark around the area near the unused gate.

FL seconded, the vote was carried by 4 in favour 1 against.

The path through the play area needs weeding. LJ to remind Mick that weedkilling along this path is in the Grass Cutting Contract.

8. Isabel LAP.

BD reported that EAGLES hope to get a grant to pay for a water tap to be installed in the LAP. Some paths have been established by mowing. BD is going to purchase wood chips and compost. Elsenham Primary School has grown lots of plants for the LAP. Until the water tap is installed BD will water the plants with the help of volunteers.

BD to price up two wooded gates for the LAP. Once it has been priced it can then be decided if the funds come from Section 106 or the playing field budget.

9. Playing Field and Play Area.

Bench to be installed – 2 benches have now been installed.

Order more new benches. Ordered, due for delivery on 18 July.

Purchase 2 picnic tables. One picnic table is now in place, the other had a part missing which has now been delivered. The picnic table may have to be rotated so the grass is not damaged.

10. Outdoor gym – update.

JM said that he would like to secure funds for the outdoor gym from the Bloor Home phase 3 development. JM had first asked for funds at a meeting a couple of years ago with Bloor Homes when discussing their Phase 2 development. Even if an outdoor gym is installed by Bloor Homes on phase 3 it would be in Henham and quite a walk for some of the Elsenham residents to use. JM still thought an outdoor gym was needed on the playing fields.

11. RoSPA report.

Both the playing field off Leigh Drive and Isabel Drive play area had a recent RoSPA inspection. Some of the issues raised JM had already noticed and arranged for the parts required, including the seats for the horse, straps for the swings and yellow caps for the climbing frame. LJ to arrange for these repairs to be carried out.

LJ to go through the RoSPA report and list the remaining issues that need attention.

There were no major concerns in the report.

12. AOB.

BD said the strip of land between the Bowls Club fence and the football pitch had been mowed, this should not be cut until late autumn.

GM said the gate in the children's play area sometimes does not automatically close. If the gate is open wide, it catches on the concrete and remains open. This is a safety issue.

GM reported that there are a lot of weeds along the Leigh Way path. It is part of the current Grass Cutting Contract to remove them. LJ to remind Mick.

GM said it may be a good idea to add an edging along the left-hand side, when going from Station Road into the playing field, the edging would butt against the wall and the path stopping any weeds from growing.

GM said he was glad to see that a lock had now been installed on the panel, which opens to allow the lawn mower access, this will stop the children using it as an entrance/exit.

FL mentioned the bench in The Spinney needs preservative treatment. GM will inform EROWOS.

The meeting finished at 8.40pm.

Date of next meeting 23 July 2025.