

Councillors Report on Bergh Apton Playground at Village Hall 27 July, 2005

1 Present:

John Ling (chair), Jean Bobbin, Chris Johnson, Sally Leigh, David Skedje.

The councillors present inspected the Playground to consider the points raised in the inspection report by Steve Allen, Play Area Inspector for SNDC.

2 Swings

Report: Annual Inspection requires bushes to be fitted to cheek plates that hold the suspension chains.

Review: The spec for steel used in construction of the cheek plates is probably more than adequate for the purpose of the play unit. The possibility of USE affecting the safety of the unit, either in cheek plate or shackle pin wear, is negligible.

Recommendation: This item to be reviewed every year. Any trend towards wear of elements to an extent that would erode the safety margin on cheek plate or shackle pin to be reported and a detailed assessment made.

3 Cradles

Report: The same Annual Inspection report was made.

Review: The same recommendation is made.

Recommend: Same

4 Multiplay Unit

Report:: Annual Inspection required that above-ground anchors be replaced by below-ground anchors.

Review: Examination suggests that the elements of the unit that act as ground-anchors are an integral part of the design of one of the elements of the multiplayer unit (the scrambling net). If one element of this unit is considered to be a danger then the concept of the whole unit would have to be called into question.

Recommend: No action until design of unit is reviewed with Play Area Inspector and supplier and a conclusion reached on the fitness of the whole unit for purpose.

5 Mature Tree

Report: Annual Inspection Report required that the condition of the tree be monitored.

Review: The Parish Councils Tree Warden carried out an inspection of the tree and reports that it is in good health.

Recommend: Annual inspection by Tree Warden required

6 Existing Access/Egress

Report: The Annual Inspection noted that the existing gate does not have sufficient all-round clearance to eliminate the risk of finger-trapping.

Review: Agreed.

Recommend: John Ling will carry out the work required to bring the existing gate into specification.

7 Alternative Egress

Report: The Annual Inspection noted that a single gate does not provide alternative egress in the case of bullying.

Review: The Inspector's comments on an alternative access were noted but it was also noted that there is no record of bullying on this Playground and that there is no evidence of a trend that indicates that it will arise in the foreseeable future.

Recommend: No action meantime on alternative egress but a review of behaviour to be considered on a regular basis.