

Report – Land to the rear of the Parish Hall – bench and play equipment

30 September 2023

OVERVIEW

The land behind the Parish Hall has been inspected. There is a piece of wooden play equipment and a bench on the land. These are not listed on the Council asset register and are not covered by the Council insurance policy.

PLAY EQUIPMENT

The play equipment is a wooden climbing structure. This is not listed on our asset register, and the Council insurance policy does not cover play equipment.

Safety and maintenance

Play equipment on land under a Council's control has to have an annual independent safety inspection by a suitably qualified contractor/company, and have regular (at least monthly) inspections by the Council. Any issues noted during the inspections are reported to Council and actions taken as required.

If an item is unsafe it has to be cordoned off (if required) until repairs can take place. Any damage/maintenance work needs to be repaired by a suitably qualified, insured contractor.

The Clerk has undertaken a visual inspection, and suspects that some of the poles are suffering from rot and decay.

Insurance

The current insurance policy does not cover playground equipment. The policy would need to be modified, or a new policy taken out to cover the equipment.

BENCH

There is a bench on the land. This is not listed on our asset register.

The asset register would need to be updated to include the bench, and a copy of the asset register sent to the insurance company.

COUNCIL DECISIONS

- To consider whether to keep or remove the climbing structure
- If removing:
 - To delegate authority to the Clerk to organise removal of equipment, and making good of the land
- If keeping:
 - To delegate authority to the Clerk to organise an independent safety inspection

- To arrange who will undertake the regular safety inspections
- To delegate authority to the Clerk to organise any repair works/maintenance required
- To delegate authority to the Clerk to organise insurance cover for the play equipment
- To note that the asset register will be updated
- To consider whether to keep or remove the bench
- If removing:
 - To delegate authority to the Clerk to arrange removal and disposal of the bench
- If keeping:
 - To note that the asset register will be updated
 - To delegate authority to the Clerk to inform the insurance company of the additional asset

COST/BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

Some costs could be covered by existing budget lines. Other costs would need to come from general reserves.

General reserves as of 30/09/23 - £9,271.31

Estimated cost of independent play inspection - £120

Estimated increase in insurance to cover the play equipment - £150 - £200

Any repair works/maintenance of play equipment – cost unknown