

Community Play Area on Slaley First School Field Report to Slaley Parish Council – May 2021

During the last twelve months access to the community play area has fluctuated because of the Pandemic. 24/3/20 All Government play areas were closed because of COVID 19.

April minutes: Slaley First School headteacher and Slaley PC Clerk had a meeting and agreed to close the school grounds to the public. PC notice laminated and attached to the two school gates.

July minutes: Headteacher, Debbie Brett, has agreed that the school grounds can be opened to the public during the summer holidays. However, there will be decorators painting the outside of the school, fencing and gates August 3rd – 14th and again 21st – 31st. Social distancing will need to be considered. Susan Allen will be using the Commemoration Hall & school field for the summer holiday sport club from Monday August 17th = Thursday 20th. When the children return to school in September community access will be restricted to weekends and school holidays. The holiday club was offered advertising on Facebook, Twitter and the parish web.

September minutes: Weekly inspections received for August 7th, 14th 21st & 28th – the latter showing gate and fencing repaired and out of defect stage.

e) Email from Slaley School teacher, with photographs re damage and displacement to school equipment, making a mess with apples and moving school furniture. Reported in Notes. Clerk to ask the school if they have considered CCTV.

f) Community agreement annual (normally July) for inclusion in October Slaley News.

g) Email from A Foster, who is now heading up FOSS she did not know about the Community Shed, and that what was supposed to be inside it. She was going to look at the two gazebos which had been pushed into the shed and dry them out before returning them. Do we consider replacing bats, balls and rackets when the Virus is over? It was agreed to alter page 3 of the community agreement – during Coronavirus bring own equipment. Copy of Community agreement was attached as appendix 2/140920, page 1484.

h) Amy Dobson of the Play Inspections Company emailed PC on 1/9/20 asking for permission to carry out Community equipment inspection at the school on 2/9/20 – suggested that the school needed to give permission. Clerk understood it was going ahead over a weekend when no schoolchildren were present.

January 2021 minutes: Cllr S. Carson suggested that the play area should be closed to children at weekends. Cllr IC Stevens confirmed the School had no plans to prohibit young people from using the school grounds over the weekends. Cllr A.M. Livesey suggested the PC take guidance from the Government – if and when playgrounds are closed then the PC will follow the guidance.

The identified repairs of 2019/20 were largely funded by the school with a shortfall grant from the Parish Council of £1,662.45 paid in July 2020.

Our Community Shed on the school grounds was in a sorry state with the felt torn and the roof wet. Councillor Ian Stevens volunteered to re-felt and make watertight and give the whole a coat of preservative. The goods were purchased £30.31 and repairs carried out.

The Community Information Boards attached to the school were taken down by Cllr Ian Stevens, taken to Topsisigns at Hexham for updating and reprinting £84.00 then rehung again by Cllr Stevens on their return to Slaley.

The Play Inspections Company annual inspection at the school – 36-page report received by email 17/9/20, circulated to Councillors and School. The stock valuation is £40,407.19

The 2021 Weekly inspection sheets do not identify any problems.

Pat Wilson
May 2021