

MINUTES of the Finance Committee of Melksham Without Parish Council held on Monday 24th July 2017 at Crown Chambers, Melksham at 7.45 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. Richard Wood (Chairman), John Glover (Vice Chair & Chairman of this Committee), Alan Baines, Mike Mills, Paul Carter & Paul Taylor.

Officers: Jo Eccleston (Parish Officer)

Apologies: None.

Housekeeping: Cllr. Glover welcomed all to the meeting and explained the evacuation procedures in the event of a fire.

168/17 **Declarations of Interest:** None.

169/17 **Public Participation:** There were no members of the public present.

170/17 **Update on Transfer of Ownership of Hornchurch Road Play Area:** The Committee noted that correspondence had been received from both Bloor Homes South West and Wiltshire Council confirming that neither had any objection to Hornchurch Road Play Area being transferred directly from Bloor Homes to Melksham Without Parish Council without having to involve Wiltshire Council. Wiltshire Council had requested that the Parish Council send the details of their solicitors directly to Bloor Homes in order that the relevant documentation could be drawn up. It was additionally noted that the Parish Council's Insurance Company had advised that refurbishment works were not undertaken by the Parish Council until the Play Area was in their ownership. The Committee drew reference to a recent article in the Melksham News over the closure of the paddling pool in the play area at the King George V Playing Fields in the Town, and the public disappointment that this had been done at the beginning of the school summer holidays, albeit that this was a health and safety issue. They therefore had concerns over the potential closure of the Hornchurch Road play area over the summer holidays, and as the legal documentation needed to be drawn up and signed prior to any work commencing felt that it would be more prudent to undertake the refurbishments in September after the school holidays. **Recommended: 1.** *The Parish Council negotiate directly with Bloor Homes South West with regard to the transfer of ownership of the Hornchurch Road Play Area from Bloor Homes to Melksham Without Parish Council. 2.* *The refurbishment of the Play Area to take place after the school summer holidays.*

171/17 **Approval of Quotation for Replacement Safety Surfacing and Play Equipment for Hornchurch Road Play Area:** It was noted that under Min.150/17b)iv)2) the Finance Committee had delegated powers to approve a quotation and appoint a contractor to undertake the refurbishment works of the Hornchurch Road play area. Cllr. Glover recapped on the first round of quotes from four suppliers, Playforce, RSS (part of HAGS SMP), Ministry of Play and VitaPlay, which could not be compared with each other as they had not all quoted for equivalent works. One supplier had quoted to remove all the existing surfacing and grass in the play area and replace this with new safety surfacing. Further quotes had then been requested from all the suppliers to carry out the same

works. Two of the suppliers had provided this second quote, but had also said that this extensive work was not required and that the digging out of the grassed areas and replacement with safety surfacing and the skimming over of the existing surface with new safety surfacing was the most cost effective and environmentally friendly solution. One supplier said that the digging out of the existing surface would conflict with their environmental policy as the existing surface could not be recycled and would have to go into landfill. Additionally, it was noted that over skimming of safety surfaces was common practice and that this had been carried out at the play area in Shaw when this was refurbished. The Committee considered that the removal of all the grass and replacement with safety surfacing was essential to ensure that there were no future ongoing grass maintenance costs. The revised quotes were considered at length and re-compared with the original quotes. Taking into account the information from two of the suppliers with regard to the practice of over skimming and the fact that this had been successfully carried out at Shaw Play area, the considerable cost of the removal of all the existing surfacing and the fact that this would have to go to landfill, the Committee decided to accept the original quote from Ministry of Play. This was to dig out the grassed area and replace with new safety surfacing and to over skim the existing surfacing with new safety surfacing; this was the second most competitive quote received and the contractor had previously carried out works for the Parish Council when working for a different company and had given excellent service both during the works undertaken and afterwards, always coming back to address any "teething" issues. Cllr. Carter advised that he had recently inspected the play area and that the entrance gate did not require painting as it was in good order. It was noted that the Council already had new signs for the play area in anticipation of taking it over. **Resolved: 1.** *The Parish Council accept the original quote, 17147 dated 11th July 2017, from Ministry of Play to undertake the resurfacing of the Hornchurch Road play area and the installation of a "Duck" spring rider at a cost of £24,993.06 exc. VAT.* **Resolved: 2.** *The refurbishment works to commence at the beginning of September at the end of the school summer holiday.* **Recommended: 3.** *The Parish Council seek quotes from Ministry of Play for the replacement of swing chain links and seats, and pigeon deterrents.* **Recommended: 4.** *The Parish Council seek a quote for a new bin.*

Meeting closed at 8.10pm

Chairman, 11th September, 2017