

At a Special meeting of the Dene Valley Parish Council held at the Dene Valley Community Partnership One Stop Shop, High Street, Eldon Lane on **Monday 22 January 2024 at 6.30 p.m.**

Present:

Councillor K Beal in the Chair

Councillors T Bird, J Moore, J Nicholson and R Simm.

Clerk Ian Croft

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors I Bourne and J Clark.

2. Play Areas

Councillor Beal confirmed that quotations for new play equipment at both Randolph Street and Coronation Play Areas had been circulated prior to the meeting. The meeting had been called to discuss the quotes received, consider the level of Parish Council funding which would be available for both projects and discuss the next steps to be taken.

Councillor Nicholson reported that she and Councillor Simm had recently met with Peter Henderson, Community Development Project Officer and James Young, Outdoor Facilities Coordinator, Durham County Council and informed the meeting that the County Council was supportive of the Parish Council plans for the Randolph Street Play Area and would strip out and remove the equipment from the play area to provide a 'blank canvas' from which to start works. Councillor Beal agreed that the Randolph Street Play Area needed a complete strip out and total renewal.

The following potential sources of income for the play park projects were identified:

- Work on a bid for AAP funding would need to commence to apply for funding from the next financial year, commencing 1 April 2024;
- There was potentially approximately £70,000 in s106 money allocated to the Parish area;
- County Councillors Neighbourhood budgets
- National Playpark organisations

James had advised that legal title was not necessary to make changes to the Coronation Play Area and he did not think that planning permission would be needed. He had reported that the County Council carried out play area inspections on a weekly basis and believed the cost of this to the Parish Council would be in the area of £800 for weekly/monthly/annual checks.

James had provided Councillor Simm with details of the County Councils three preferred suppliers for play equipment.

A follow up meeting with James was scheduled to take place mid to late February 2024.

The meeting agreed that as things stood the quotes from Sovereign for Coronation Play Area and Pennine for Randolph Street Play Area were the most advantageous. However, Councillor Simm was to approach the County Councils preferred three suppliers to obtain quotes from them for similar equipment to that identified by both Sovereign and Pennine.

Councillor Beal informed the meeting that Smith Roddam, Solicitors had been instructed by the Parish Council to progress the asset transfer of Randolph Street Play Area and it was hoped that this would be completed in a short period of time.

Members discussed the level of Parish Council funding that may be available for the two play area projects and it was agreed, taking into account current balances of the Parish Council, that this could be in the region of £40,000 to £45,000.

3 Any Other Business

Members noted that the dates of the Parish Council meetings in April and May both fell on Bank Holiday Mondays. It was agreed that the meetings in these months be moved back to the Monday of the following week.

The meeting finished at 7.25 p.m. Next meeting – 5 February 2024.