Bishopton Playground Association

Minutes of Bishopton Playground Association (BPA) General Meeting

held on Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 7:00pm

(meeting to be held via Zoom due to Covid-19 pandemic restrictions)

**Present**: S Pilkington, N Melaney, L Foggett, J Robins,

S Elliot, K Coupland, L Guest

1. **Apologies**

Sarah Harker

1. **Minutes from the previous meeting - 7th April 2021**

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted. J Robins asked that the draft minutes are made available to Parish Council for consideration at their next meeting and copies to be added to the Playground page on the Parish Council website.

Action: LF to email draft minutes to Parish Councillors ahead of their meeting.

1. **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda**

Nothing to declare

1. **Matters Arising (not otherwise on the agenda)**

Nothing to report

1. **Financial Report**

Current balance £2,699.80

1. **Update from Bishopton Parish Council (L Foggett/N Melaney)**

NM reported that Lindley MacMahon and Les Foggett have been in discussion with Darlington Street Scene and the cutting of the playground grass has been incorporated into the grounds maintenance of the village.

7 **Playground Progress**

7.1 Planned installation date for 17th May is still on track. Security fencing is to be installed the week before.

7.2 Raised Beds –One of the previously installed raised beds has now been filled with sensory plants purchased from Ravensworth Nurseries, who also provided helpful advice, and money from the Persimmon funding. A picture was put on Bishopton Buddies and some responses were received offering donations of plants. SP will collect them and plant up the other 2 beds.

7.3 Benches – the Parish Council are to relocate 2 benches from the village to the playground once they have been refurbished.

7.4 Trombone handle – LF has purchased this and will fit to the gate after the next equipment installation. The purpose of this handle is to assist with access for all.

8 **Funding Applications**

NM confirmed that the application to Calor Gas community fund is progressing. This involves placing the application on a crowd funding platform, where it can be liked by supporters and pledges can be made. NM has been in discussions with Paul Frost who has agreed to make a video about the playground to encourage people to support the bid on line. PF is unable to edit the video, so a cost maybe incurred for the editing. Every like or donation our application receives improves our chances of success for a £5000 grant. NM suggested that for anyone donating they could be named on a wooden shape when available. A list of people could also be included in the time capsule project which the Parish Council is considering placing under the gazebo in the playground.

9 **Fundraising & Publicity**

**9.1 Wooden Shape Scheme**

SP had previously circulated an update on progress for members to consider. No issues were raised by members of the meeting regarding colour, price and range of shape.

JR suggested that children could paint their own shape, ideas of how this could be done were discussed, as the group have already agreed the colours to be used.

A number of ways were discussed on how to acknowledge sponsor, such as a laminated sheet listing all those who had contributed; although it was thought a laminated sheet would not be very durable. Alternatively, a traffolyte plate could be inscribed and added to the wooden shape, but this could incur an additional cost and reduce the net income of the project.

How to advertise this scheme was discussed. SP has written a newsletter that will be available on the Parish Council website, regarding the playground and a paragraph could be included about the wooden shape scheme. A post could be put on Bishopton Buddies, including a picture of the planters and wooden shapes already in place, inviting anyone interested in sponsoring a shape to get in touch.

SP felt that this would not be accessible for all the village and would not get sufficient response from all the residents, so a leaflet drop should also be considered. SE offered to speak with a friend who may be able to print the leaflet cheaper than previous quote of £200.

It was suggested that companies within the parish news are contacted for sponsorship. A post in the Parish News could be costly. SE to contact local businesses and SP to contact Parish News for a price for an advert.

9.2 Treasure Hunt and Scarecrow Trail

A Treasure Hunt is planned for Saturday 26th June (closest Saturday to St Peter’s day which was the original date of the Village summer fayre) at 1.00 pm. The afternoon will consist of a treasure hunt around the village, ending in the playground where a table could be set up for children to paint their own small wooden welly or flower, and residents will be able to order a painted shapes. The WI will be invited to help with this event. LG to liaise with WI.

The fund raising group will meet to start the planning of the event.

It was suggested that this occasion could be used to officially open the playground, which could involve the oldest and one of the youngest residents of the village.

10 **Donations & Acknowledgements**

None

11 **Any other Business**

None

12 **Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 9th June at 7.00 pm