**Bishopton Playground Association**

**Minutes of the Bishopton Playground Association (BPA) General Meeting**

**held on Wednesday 3rd February 2021 7:00pm via Zoom**

# Present: S. Pilkington, N Melaney, S Harker, L Foggett, J Robins

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1. **Apologies**
   1. None
2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
   1. Updated minutes following the draft of September’s meeting had not been circulated, apologies from SH. This will be circulated along with minutes of this meeting.
3. **Declarations of Interest**
   1. Nothing declared.
4. **Matters Arising**
   1. The playground has been open since the issues mentioned in September were resolved and passed inspection etc.
   2. Hedging has been improved with some planting of whips to fill gaps, JR to inspect and check for new growth.

1. **Financial Report**
   1. LF provided a brief summary of financial position. This included a grant secured from Banks which will be paid once an invoice for the new equipment is received; see below.

# Equipment and Quotations Review

# The wooden goalset has been inspected, with appropriate safety signage added, and has been available for children to enjoy since September 2020.

# The Banks Moorhouse fund were able to grant £3,000 of the £5,000 requested; together with the £3,000 grant from Banks Lambs Hill, less the 10% contribution to be made by Bishopton Playground Association, a total of £5,400 has been secured. This is unfortunately less than anticipated and alone is not enough to proceed with the equipment purchase agreed at the last meeting.

# NM advised that a) Bishopton Village Hall has offered to donate £1,000 and b) Mr & Mrs Wood, residents of Bishopton Village are to make a personal donation, including sponsorship of a wooden welly for the perimeter fence (this fundraising scheme is to be progressed during the next few months). With these generous contributions taken into account, the shortfall is close to meeting the amount required.

# At the last meeting, it was unanimously agreed to focus on quotations from Kompan and Sovereign, with an agreement that the latter supplier was preferred. Updated costings and drawings from both companies were reviewed in detail, taking into consideration all factors listed in items 6.5 and 6.6 of the minutes from 2nd September 2020 it was agreed to place an order with Sovereign for the following:

# Double swing set, to include a flat and toddler swing seat.

# Nest swing.

# Toddler play tower including slide, steps, climbing ramp and fireman’s pole.

# Grass matting around play equipment to protect the ground from erosion or pitting.

# All equipment to be flush fitted into grass, frames are pressure-treated timber.

# The layout will give consideration to future use of the area for village events, leaving a large open space from the entrance.

# Local businesses to be approached to seek assistance with e.g. storage of equipment to minimise costs given the reduced budget.

# It was agreed that to further reduce installation costs, by not requiring security fencing, the playground will be closed during installation.

# NM to confirm final costs and specification with Sovereign prior to seeking approval from Bishopton Parish Council to place an order. The lead time quoted is 6-8 weeks from order, with approximately 4 days for installation. It is hoped that equipment could be installed and signed off for use in time for the Easter Bank Holiday weekend.

# LF to arrange an emergency meeting for Bishopton Parish Council on 10th February 2021 to review and approve the proposed plan.

# Fundraising updates

# NM has been advised by The National Lottery that they are once more accepting bids, and this is now closed to being ready to submit; the timescale from submission to an initial response is 12 weeks, with a further 6 weeks for a decision if deemed viable.

# SP has reported that the bid to Tesco Bags of Help was unsuccessful.

# JR to provide a public update on the recent grant funding success and donation from the Village Hall via the “Bishopton Buddies” Facebook Group as it has been some time since there were any developments of note to report.

# The fundraising group are to be contacted and asked if they have any ideas for short term fundraising; although it will not be the events they had envisaged running due to the covid-19 pandemic there may be other ideas to explore. LF to invite the group to a short catch up meeting prior to the emergency Bishopton Parish Council meeting on 10th February so they are fully informed.

# Any other Business

# JR raised the issue of weeds in the playground, having already removed some ragwort. Local people to be invited to offer their time in doing some weeding, ensuring roots are removed to prevent regrowth.

# It was agreed that area also needs rolling and seeding in early spring to improve the grass surface. This matter will be raised with Bishopton Parish Council as it relates to maintenance.

**The meeting closed at 8:00pm.**

The next meeting will be held Wednesday 3rd March at 7:00pm via Zoom. This will be set up and hosted by Les Foggett.

Signed: Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_