

## **REPORT TO PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL**

**1<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

### **AGENDA ITEM 8.2 – CLOVER DRIVE PLAY AREA**

#### **1. Report**

- 1.1 Members have briefly discussed the play area in recent months with the growing acceptance that the equipment, whilst still functional, is moving toward the end of its natural life, and that it is an appropriate time to give consideration to its future. One small piece of play equipment was removed from the site some time ago because of failure. The remaining equipment is inspected on a weekly basis, and more thoroughly on an annual basis, to ensure its safety.
- 1.2 Initial enquiries reveal that replacement of the major climbing frame structure, with associated groundworks, would cost in excess of £20,000. This would not secure the replacement of the smaller toddler-focussed items, nor treatment of the swings, nor replacement of the benches etc, which are also ageing. A more comprehensive renewal of equipment and benches would cost around, or in excess of, £30,000. The swings structure is however essentially functionally fine and is capable of renovation at relatively small cost. Significant renovation of all of the existing equipment and the play surface, giving a future life of perhaps 5 years rather than 10 years plus for new equipment would be possible at a cost of around £15,000.
- 1.3 The Parish Council has accumulated through the earmarking of funds for the last few years, and the potential allocation of funds from CIL moneys as referred to in the report at Agenda item 6.3, a sum of £9000 for this purpose. Other funds would clearly be required to finance significant work. It is possible that contributions may be available via various grant schemes, and other bodies or persons may be able to make contributions of some form or other.
- 1.4 Should members be minded to progress a scheme of substantial renovation or renewal, then it is suggested that a working group of members be formed to seek potential financial contributions to add to the Council's available funding, and to establish a specification for renovation or replacement for approval by Council.

#### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That members consider whether a scheme of substantial renovation and/or replacement of equipment (including benches etc) at the play area should be pursued further.
- 2.2 That should members be minded to progress such a scheme, then a working group of members be identified to seek potential financial contributions to add to the Council's available funding for such work, and to establish a specification for renovation or replacement of equipment, for approval by Council.

**J Steel**

**Clerk to the Parish Council**