

MINUTES OF A PLAY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD REMOTELY ON FRIDAY 19 MARCH 2021

Play2101. Attendance:

This remote meeting had been requested by PlayStillingfleet. In attendance were:

Councillors : Paul Elmhirst, John Cook, Lesley Collingridge

PlayStillingfleet : Ross Powell, Sally Lewis

Clerk : Ruth Swales

Play2102 Ross Powell (RP) thanked everyone for joining the meeting at his request. He outlined that he had become aware that Neil Atkinson, the owner of the land behind the Village Institute, would very shortly be selling his land with a guide price of '£100k plus'. As one of the locations previously identified for a possible playground RP suggested it would be useful to understand the Council's options should purchase of the land be pursued.

Play2103 RP indicated that he had had a number of conversations about funding that the Parish Council might consider. Cllr Richard Musgrave and Cllr Neil Reader had indicated that there would be no funding available from Selby District Council but had suggested Council could consider either National Lottery Funding or A loan from the Public Work Loan Board.

Play2104 RP talk through a presentation he had prepared as below which in summary states:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/97ud3vfn7vu2x49/Play%20Stillingfleet%20-%20Meeting%20slides%20-%2017.3.21.pptx?dl=0>

National Lottery funding:

- The Parish Council could apply for funding for the land AND play equipment cost but that the Lottery would be unlikely to fund a bid for just the land.
- Confirmation would be required from Selby DC that planning permission for a playground would be approved.
- RP stated he had a contact within the planning team who might be able to provide a letter of comfort.
- A funding decision of this value would take c8-10 weeks for the initial phase, and then c3-6 months for the second phase. The Lottery have confirmed they aim not to submit a contract to the second phase that won't be approved.
- RP suggested these timeframes could be a significant negative for this option.

Public Work Loan Board funding:

- Cllr Richard Musgrave had advised that Towton have very recently used this scheme to buy public amenity land for £110k which they will repay by a small increase in their village precept.
- Money can be borrowed from this fund and repaid over (up to) 50 years.
- Approval of a loan could be very quick – probably within a month.
- The cost of play equipment could be sourced elsewhere to keep the loan cost down. RP indicated that he knows from experience, that there are many funding opportunities for these elements.
- RP suggested that the Parish Council could consider a loan of c£90k (with a c£10k PC contribution) and use any future CIL income to make early repayments of part of the debt.
- The negative of this option is obviously the long-term debt. RP suggested that the village would need to approve taking on such a debt.
- RP indicated that he had calculated that repayments of a £90K loan over 50 years would be in the region of £4K per annum which in his opinion could be funded by an increase in the Parish's precept.
- The Clerk advised that the Council's precept for 2021/22 has been set at £4K so should the Council pursue this route it would need to approve and submit a 100% increase with effect from April 2022. The current precept for a Band D equivalent household incurs a cost of £20.23 p.a.

Play2105 Cllr Elmhirst opined that the Council needs to consider whether the land behind the Village Institute is the most appropriate location for the playground. The Clerk suggested that in seeking feedback from the village residents should be made aware of all the options indicating that, as the demographics of the village have changed in recent years, there may be a different outcome if residents were asked regarding their appetite for having a playground on part of the Village Green (already owned by the Council).

Play2106 Cllr Elmhirst advised that he had spoken to Neil Atkinson (NA) a number of times previously re this plot of land and said he would contact him again to ascertain his intentions now planning consent had been forthcoming. RP indicated that he too had been in communication with NA.

Play2107 The following actions were captured:

- RP to speak to NA re his intentions for sale of the land, his likely timescales and for confirmation of the valuation.
- RP to draft a questionnaire to residents for the approval of Council.
- RP to apply for Lottery Funding should Council decide to go down this route.
- The opinions of the immediate neighbours of the plot of land including the Village Institute Committee needs to be obtained.

Play2108 No date was set for a follow up meeting of the Play Committee but an update would be provided to full Council at the PC meeting on 1 April 2021.