

**SHERE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Playground Committee Meeting**  
**held at 7.30 p.m. on 4 February 2013**

**Present:** Parish Councillors C Brooke (Chairman of the Playground Committee), R Andrews B Cohen, R Davey, R Newman (Chairman of the Parish Council), J Tenner, 29 members of the public and the Clerk, Joy Millett.

**Apologies for absence** - there were none.

**Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests – NO DECLARATIONS** of interest were made.

**The Minutes** of the meeting held on 14 January 2013 were **APPROVED AND SIGNED** as a correct record.

**Financial Report** – The Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer **INFORMED** the Committee of the Parish Council’s current financial position:

<u>For 2012/13:</u>	<u>£</u>
Playground projects (held in earmarked reserves)	12,862
Playground maintenance	14,400
Contingency	5,700
Grant Aid (match-funded and to be used by 31.03.13.)	<u>5,000</u>
	<u>37,962</u>

<u>For 2013/14:</u>	<u>£</u>
Playground projects	5,000
Playground maintenance	<u>6,000</u>
	11,000
Allocated Grant Aid for skate ramp	<u>5,883</u>
(for scheme costing £20,000 (use by 31.03.14.)	<u>16,883</u>
50% up to £10,000, 10% thereafter)	

### **Goose Green**

It was noted that a new piece of play equipment had been chosen for the Millennium Play Area: a pendulum swing. It was suitable for children aged 5 to 16, including children with disabilities, and several children would be able to use it at the same time, so it would encourage children to play together. The swing was to replace the existing cross scales equipment, which was approaching the end of its useful life and this type of equipment was no longer readily available. Local scouts and guides groups had been consulted on the choice of new equipment. It would be funded by the Parish Council and match-funded with allocated grant aid (see earlier ‘Financial Report’ in these minutes) from Guildford Borough Council.

It was **AGREED** that the pendulum swing be ordered at a cost of £9,990 + VAT (to include removal of existing cross scales equipment, supply and installation of new pendulum swing and wet pour safety surface and delivery of same.

## **Skate and Ride**

**Correspondence** - there had been a lot of correspondence on this matter and it had been circulated to all Parish Councillors. R Newman congratulated everyone involved for their hard work in researching the implications of installing a skate ramp.

**Presentation of further research** – C Brooke (Chairman) gave a presentation of further research that she had undertaken on skate ramp facilities.

### **Short adjournment to enable the Public to raise any issue relating to an item on the agenda.**

The public present were invited to add anything further to the issues raised in the presentation.

Several people thanked C Brooke (Chairman) for her thorough overview and up-date on skate ramp facilities. Sincere thanks were also given to the three local residents who had compiled their Skate Park Report, which had been widely circulated.

There was overall recognition that there was a lack of facilities for the older youngsters in the Parish. There was also general support, in principle, for a skate ramp facility but some residents had concerns. These were primarily about possible noise nuisance but other concerns raised were in relation to possible litter, vandalism and site location; access to it by users and lighting of it.

The Chairman commented that there had been unanimous support from several other Parish Clerks, who had experience of a skate ramp facility in their Parishes. In response to concerns raised by residents, she stated that, if a skate ramp were to be sited on the Recreation Ground, in Shere, it would be over-looked by the Ground's users. There was also a possibility of having CCTV there. A skate ramp facility in this location would require the permission of the Shere Recreation Ground Association (SRGA), planning permission, safety checks by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, insurances put in place, and so on.

### **The meeting restarted.**

The Committee reiterated their concerns about the need to address the lack of facilities for the age group in question. The Committee noted that the suggested skate ramp facility was unlikely to attract people from outside the Parish as it was a more modest facility than a skate park and there were already skate ramps in some of the surrounding villages. They felt that there would be a lot of parental supervision of the facility as it was for young as well as for older children. The Chairman reported that Surrey County Council youth team were very supportive, and keen to help set up a committee of young people plus some adult facilitators, which would be responsible for setting up a contract of behaviour which must be adhered to. On the issue of noise, the Committee felt that they needed some expert advice on the measurement of noise and ways that a skate ramp could be adapted to minimise noise.

It was unanimously **AGREED** that the Council be **RECOMMENDED** that:

- (i) professional advice be sought on measuring noise from a skate ramp and ways to ameliorate this;
- (ii) following consideration of this, the SRGA be approached with a plan for a skate ramp facility on Shere Recreation Ground and
- (iii) subject to the above, a scaled-down version of a skate ramp be installed, which could be added to at a later date.

**Correspondence** – no other correspondence had been received after the agenda had been printed