

GORING-ON-THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

**All Councillors are summoned to a meeting of Council, to be held at the
Bellême Room, Village Hall, Goring on Monday 13 August 2018 at 7.30pm
Public and press are invited to attend**

Members are respectfully reminded of the obligation to declare any interests relevant to business to be *conducted at this meeting and of the convention as to withdrawal from the meeting for the relevant item unless* the interest is not one that debars the member from speaking thereon.

AGENDA – COUNCIL MEETING

1. To receive apologies for absence.
2. To receive declarations of interests.
3. Public forum: *An opportunity for the public to address the council. With the permission of the chairman, the public may also speak about specific items of business as they arise.*
4. To approve minutes of the meeting held on 9th July 2018.
5. Matters arising from those minutes not elsewhere on the agenda.
6. To receive chairman's report and announcements.
7. To receive a report on the NP Strategic Project for Goring CE Primary School (BU)
8. To consider a report on the NP Strategic Project for traffic management, parking and pedestrian safety in the village centre (DB) (Appendix A)
9. To note reports from County Councillor / District Councillor Kevin Bulmer. (Appendices B & B1)
10. To receive a report from the Police. (JW)
11. To receive a report on Recreation Grounds issues and to ratify discussion from previous meeting to allow battery powered floodlight use by Goring Robins. (LR) (Appendix C)
12. To receive a report on White Hill Burial Ground issues. (MBu)
13. To consider a report regarding planned events in the village (Inc GM issues). (CH) (Appendix D)
14. Parish Finance:
 - 14.1. To approve payments for July 2018. (Appendix E)
 - 14.2. To note receipts for July 2018. (Appendix F)
 - 14.3. To note the bank account and reserves balances as at 31 July 2018. (Appendix G)
 - 14.4. 2017-18 Accounts: To note that a second challenge has been sent to the External Auditor. Regarding the first, the auditor has asked for and received answers to some initial

Colin Ratcliff, Clerk to the Council

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questions, and copies of documents. These relate to challenges by residents to the annual accounts of GPC for 2017-18 regarding the Weir Judicial Review & Appeal.

(Appendix H)

- 14.5. To consider a grant request from the Macular Society, Goring-on-Thames Support Group. (Appendices I & I1)

15. To consider a request to support MIGGS in asking Network Rail to dedicate the railway station footbridge to Norman Radley, and to note that the MIGGS leaflet 'Accessible by Train' will be published on 20 August.

16. To consider recommendations in annual play equipment safety inspections (LR) (Appendices J & J1)

17. To approve a Fire Risk Assessment for Gardiner Pavilion (Appendix K)

18. To hear a presentation from Leigh Abbott, Community Engagement Coordinator regarding The Streatley with Goring Dementia Action Forum. (MBr)

19. For Weir Committee Members to approve minutes of the meeting held on 31st July 2018.

20. To receive minutes as above if approved and to consider dissolving the Weir Committee.

21. Reports from Planning Committee – to receive minutes of the meeting held on 26th June 2018.

22. Correspondence.

1. To consider an email regarding Electric Vehicle Charging Points (C1)
2. To consider an offer of a commemorative sapling and plaque (C2)
3. To consider emails regarding grant funding for biodiversity projects in conjunction with Network Rail (C3)

23. Matters for future discussion.

24. Confidential Business - To consider and, if thought fit, approve the following motion: In view of the confidential nature of the business about to transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw.

25. To consider a request for a permanent right of access across council owned property.

Colin Ratcliff, Clerk to the Council

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GORING ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL
Bellême Room, Goring Village Hall 7:30 pm Monday 9 July 2018

Members Present:

Chairman	Kevin Bulmer (KB)
Vice Chairman	John Wills (JW)
Members	Catherine Hall (CH)
	David Brooker (DB)
	Mary Bulmer (MBu)
	Bryan Urbick (BU)
	Emrhys Barrell (EB)
	Lawrie Reavill (LR)
	Matthew Brown (MBr)

Officers Present:

Clerk	Colin Ratcliff (CR)
Assistant Clerk	Mike Ward (MW)

Approx. 11 members of the public and press

18/110 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Debbie Gee (DG)

18/111 To receive any declarations of interests

None

18/112 Public Forum

John Boler was present for two items but had nothing to add to his correspondence. He said that at the next meeting MIGGS will submit an invitation for GPC to join them in suggesting a plaque be placed on the Railway Footbridge in the name of Norman Radley.

Stephanie Bridle advised the Judges for Britain in Bloom would be visiting the village on Wednesday 18th July. She asked if grass by the village entry signs could be cut back and noted a bollard had fallen over by The Rectory.

Trevor Coombs stated Wallingford Road pavement had been encroached by weeds and hedging on the High Street by the railway bridge was overgrown.

Jim Emerson thanked CR for putting past minutes etc on the website and BU for an explanation regarding the Weir Judicial Review.

Bill Jackson stated he had questions on the Weir Committee Report: He said he had been accused of misinformation, there had been a data protection breach by the council and defamation. He sought an apology.

Cllr Urbick said it appeared Mr Jackson was referring to his report (Appendix O) to council; he apologised if he had offended, that wasn't his intent. Mr Jackson then said the Data Protection Act had been breached and the apology was not good enough. Cllr Bulmer said these were serious allegations so could not be dealt with immediately. He proposed that the report at Appendix O be withdrawn and any motions required would be made verbally (**Resolved:** That the report be withdrawn).

Mr Jackson said that his solicitors would be in touch. Cllr Bulmer reiterated the matter could not be dealt with there and then and before the meeting closed he promised that the Clerk would make contact with Mr Jackson the following day.

18/113 To approve minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2018.

Resolved: That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman.

18/114 Matters arising from those minutes not elsewhere on the agenda.

Signed:

Dated:

None

18/115 To receive chairman's report and announcements.

None

18/116 To consider a report on the Neighbourhood Plan.

Appendix A was noted. The budget request was to be dealt with under item 15.4. KB noted that the Examiner was holding a public hearing Wednesday 11th July.

18/117 To receive a report on the NP Strategic Project for Goring CE Primary School

Appendix B was noted.

18/118 To receive a report on the NP Strategic Project for traffic management, parking and pedestrian safety in the village centre

Appendix C was noted. KB said regarding point 4.2 that SODC are trying to obtain Civil Enforcement Powers from OCC.

DB proposed an amendment to proposed safety improvements in The High Street:

Resolved: That five bollards be added to the plans as proposed

18/119 To note a report from County Councillor / District Councillor Kevin Bulmer.

Appendix D was noted. KB stated SODC's Local Plan was moving forward and hoped it would be out by the end of the year. SODC were advising residents to check waste certificates for any waste they had collected by other contractors.

18/120 To receive a report from the Police

JW reported there had been a burglary in Cleeve Down, access via a cat flap, keys and a car stolen. He had attended a new Police District Forum. 12 councils had been expected but there were only 4 Cllr's from Henley and JW. The main agenda was parking, speeding and anti-social behaviour. He said Speed Detection Devices were available to be loaned out. Police advised flashing signs were more effective than speed cameras at slowing vehicles. The police were dealing with some drugs issues in the village.

18/121 To receive a report on Recreation Grounds issues and to note a review on The Rectory Garden

Appendices E and E1 were noted.

Regarding 'General' paragraph 1 KB noted that SODC were considering how to encourage and reward volunteers.

Simon Hannigan from Goring Robins asked about previous requests to use floodlights and for an event on 13-15 August. As the matters were quite urgent councillors discussed the issues and were all in support in principle. It was noted the tennis club have floodlights until late evening, the Robins' lights were battery powered, not as powerful and their use would be limited. It was agreed to allow the requests but with a formal consideration at the next meeting.

Regarding 'Gardiner' paragraph KB reminded council that the only decision made so far is for the working group to come back with proposals. KB would expect to see at least it being discussed with current users of the field, i.e. sports clubs and the Gap Festival and that the report show there is a demonstrable need for the equipment. BU reminded there would be a minimum of a six-month lead in time for grant applications. Ned Worsley as a member of the NPSG endorsed MBu's comments regarding no provision for teenagers in the village and hoped the working group would consider this.

Regarding Appendix E1, LR noted the conclusions concurred with previous advice. He believed railings were never erected due to the timing of the donation and intervention of World War II.

18/122 To receive a report on White Hill Burial Ground issues

MBu reported the grass was short and brown. Some graves had items on them. CR stated these are usually dealt with using some sensitivity if possible.

Signed:

Dated:

- 18/123 To receive a report regarding planned events in the village**
Appendix F was noted. CH intended replying to the few complainants about the Rectory Garden Event on 24 June with that report.
She proposed a letter of thanks be sent to The Gap Festival Committee.
Resolved: To send a letter of thanks.
- 18/124 Parish Finance:**
- 1 To approve payments for May and June 2018.**
Resolved: That the payments be approved
 - 2 To note receipts for May and June 2018**
Noted
 - 3 To note the bank account and reserves balances as at 30 June 2018.**
Noted
 - 4 To review income & expenditure at the end of the first quarter 2018-19 and consider proposed budget changes**
DB asked whether GPC has to ask SODC's permission to spend CIL funds. BU explained the policy
Resolved: That the proposed amendments to the budget in Appendix J be approved.
 - 5 To consider a report on proposed fees and charges for 2018-19**
Resolved: That proposals in Appendix K be approved
- 18/125 To consider a report on a booster tank and pump for the showers at Gardiner Pavilion**
Appendix L was noted. KB asked about structural support for the tank, BU explained it was ground floor on the existing concrete base. Jim Emerson asked if the Bowls Club was in agreement. CR stated they were aware and understood the issues.
- 18/126 To consider an amended Publication Scheme document**
Jim Emerson pointed out some missed information on page 4.
Resolved: That the draft at Appendix M be approved subject to the minor amendments being made.
- 18/127 To note that a challenge by a resident has been sent to the External Auditor regarding the 2017-18 accounts, any response awaits the Auditor's initial consideration.**
Noted
- 18/128 To consider a report on the 'Get Involved Fair'**
Appendix N referred. DB asked about feedback from organisations. BU said there had been some and the final decision would depend on numbers.
Resolved: That the proposals in Appendix N be approved.
- 18/129 To consider a report on the Weir regarding payment of costs and the scheduling of a Weir committee meeting to address any outstanding issues, and to then dissolve the Committee**
Appendix O had been withdrawn. KB declared an interest as SODC Councillor and left the room. JW took over as chairman for this item.
BU said he was pulling together a comprehensive report on all aspects of the judicial review and proposed that a Weir Committee meeting be scheduled for 31 July to receive the report and consider recommending wrapping up the committee.
He also proposed council formally approve payment of negotiated costs of £6,700 from the original award of £10,000.
Resolved: That both proposals be approved.

- 18/130 To consider appointment of two further GPC trustees to the Goring Poor Allotment Charity (in line with their constitution)**
Resolved: That Cllr's MBu and MBr be appointed.
- 18/131 Reports from Planning Committee – to receive minutes of meetings held on 24 April and 22 May 2018**
Received and noted
- 18/132 Correspondence**
- 1 To consider a request from MIGGS regarding Station Road improvements**
Email at appendix C1 refers.
Resolved: That the council write to OCC Highways in line with the request
 - 2 To consider an email received about road signs at the Mill Road / Wallingford Road junction**
Email at C2 refers.
KB noted some lines had recently been repainted by OCC, he proposed writing to OCC to see if they have any safety improvement ideas to suggest. DB suggested the hedge may need cutting back.
Resolved: That the council write to OCC Highways
 - 3 To consider a report from MIGGS on Wallingford Road pavement safety**
Report at C3 refers
Resolved: That the council write to OCC and Network Rail to try and progress some action.
- 18/133 Matters for future discussion**
None
- 18/134 Confidential Business - To consider and, if thought fit, approve the following motion: In view of the confidential nature of the business about to transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw.**
Resolved: That the motion be approved
- 18/135 Email and internet security**
MBr and BU gave a presentation on IT security
- The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 2110 hrs.

Abbreviations (where used):

GPC	Goring on Thames Parish Council
MIGGS	Mobility Issues Group for Goring and Streatley
NP	Neighbourhood Plan
NPSG	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
OCC	Oxfordshire County Council
SODC	South Oxfordshire District Council

Goring Parish Council - Goring High St – Report

1 Aug'18

1. Proposed High St roadworks

We are still awaiting proposals from OCC Highways (OCCH) to prepare the drawings and specification for the proposed works to enable the construction costs to be established. It was agreed at our meeting 8 May'18 with OCCH that they would come back to us within three months.

The Clerk sent OCCH an e-mail advising of the addition of the bollards, which we hope will act as a memory jogger.

2. Installation of posts in the verge adjacent to the Rectory Gardens

I would suggest we continue to monitor the situation.

3. Community Centre car park

Renewed lease for 10 years has now been signed.

4. Strategic Project related to Traffic congestion and Parking

4.1 Comment as for previous report i.e. Our committee has met and discussed a number of matters but believe that to take matters further we need a meeting with OCCH, see above.

4.2 SODC – Civil Enforcement Powers

We have been advised that SODC has agreed to instruct officers to investigate the implications of adopting CEP for Council to consider in next year's budget.

The Clerk has notified the Councils who joined with us in approaching SODC on this matter.

5.0 General

5.1 As and when we manage to get the High St works carried out I would like to propose we place a couple of street planters in the High St as follows:

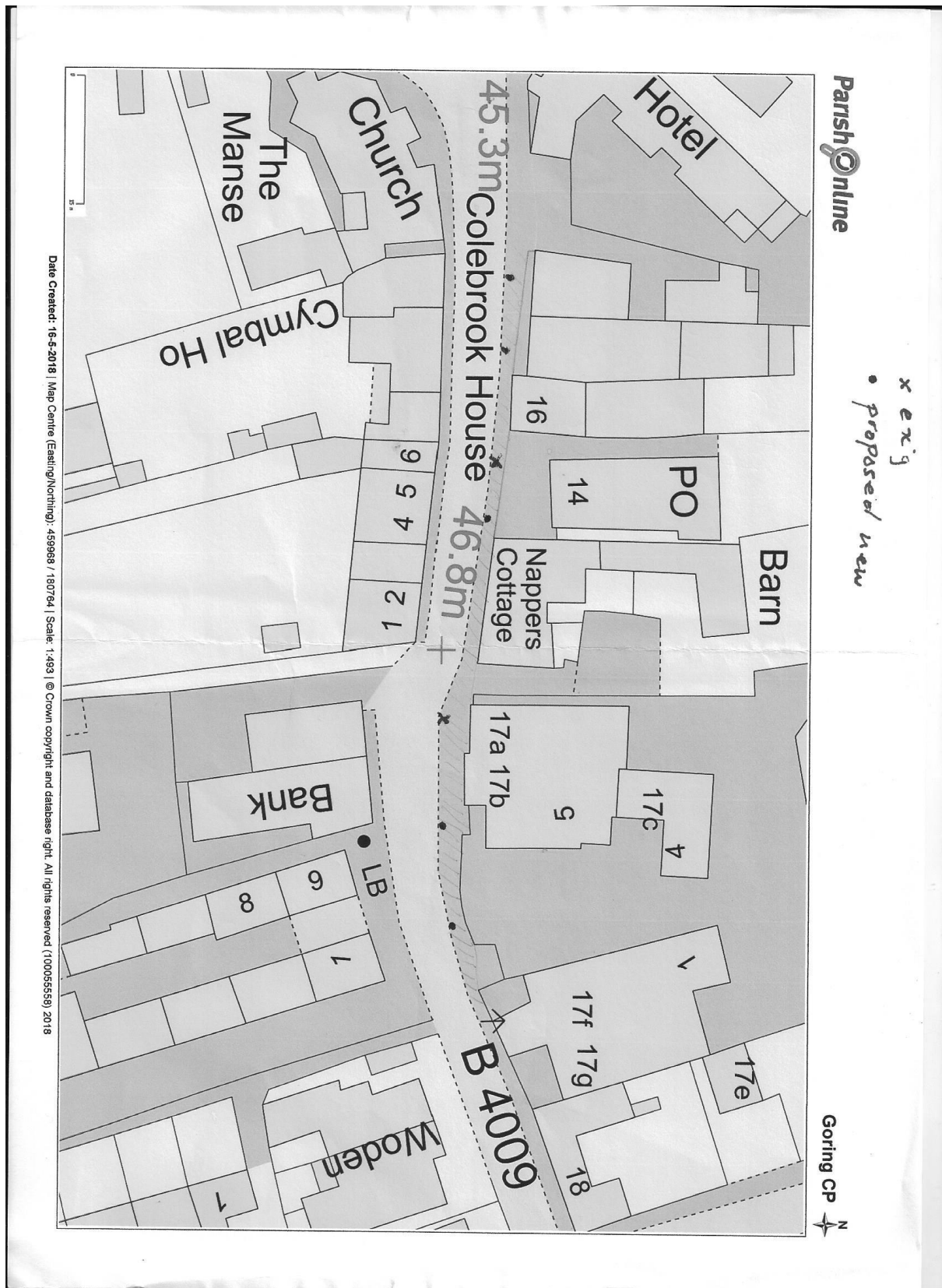
On the footpath build out forming the give way outside Inspirations.

On the footpath outside the Goring Grocer.

I would seek to obtain sponsors for these planters but may need to revert to Council as they could cost in the region of £1.5k, which could come out of the street furniture budget.

Your support for this proposal would be appreciated.

Cllr David Brooker



District report by District Councillor kevin Bulmer

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SODC A Conservative District Councillor's View (Or What The Council Is Doing)

July 2018.

The Environment Agency have [updated](#) their advice to householders regarding the disposal of waste. They have advised that householders:

1. Check the waste management operator being used is a registered carrier.
2. Get a written receipt/transfer note complete with contact details, a description of waste removed and details of where the waste is being taken to.
3. Note down the vehicle type, colour and registration number of the vehicle that's taking waste away.

Councillors visit award-winning South Stoke Community shop

The award-winning South Stoke Community Shop had three new customers on the 9th July when the chairman of South Oxfordshire District Council, Cllr Lorraine Hillier, Cllr Lynn Lloyd, cabinet member for community services at the council, and Cllr Kevin Bulmer dropped in for a browse and a cup of tea.

At the recent Oxfordshire Charity and Volunteer Awards, the shop won the best group in South Oxfordshire, an award which was sponsored by the district council.

Cllr Lloyd said "We gave the award to the South Stoke Community Shop as recognition of the hard work by the volunteers to create this community hub in a rural part of South Oxfordshire. This has obviously been appreciated by local people judging by its success."

South Oxfordshire Local Plan update

We've started to review and filter the 15 possible strategic allocation sites, including the current strategic sites; previously considered but not progressed sites; and some more recently submitted sites.

Discussions continue with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Forthcoming Inquiries

- Tetsworth - an appeal for a traveller site comprising 12 pitches originally was deferred in November 2017 and is now scheduled for August 2018.
- Chinnor – Three Appeals beginning 26th June in respect of Perssimon and Cala Homes.
- Further inquiries are scheduled for sites in Didcot, Chinnor and Shiplake

Privacy policy updated (GDPR and all that.)

Following the introduction of the Data Protection Act 2018 we have published a new privacy policy as well as information for residents about how we handle their personal data. You can find these on the SODC website.

<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/about-us/contact-us/requesting-information/data-protection/privacy-policy>

The new Act integrates everything covered by GDPR with additional aspects specific to the UK - for more information see the Information Commissioner's website.

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/data-protection-act-2018/>

Feeling unsafe on a date? Pub goers can now ‘Ask for Angela’ to get help

A new scheme designed to help those at risk of abuse in a pub or bar has been launched in the Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire.

If someone feels uncomfortable in a licensed venue in Abingdon or Didcot they can go to the bar and ask; “Is Angela in?”. Staff will then offer discrete help, such as keeping an eye on them, calling a friend, relative, taxi, or the police - or simply help them to leave the building via alternative exit. Having started in 2016 the ‘Ask for Angela’ campaign is now available across a number of towns and cities in the UK.

The scheme is particularly aimed at those who are on a date with someone they have only just met online, or via a dating app, who then doesn’t turn out quite as they expected.

Participating venues can be recognised by a blue sticker in their window and posters displayed in bar and toilet areas. So far, 21 pubs have signed up in Abingdon and ten in Didcot.

The ‘Ask Angela’ campaign will be rolled out across towns in the South Oxfordshire this summer. The scheme is supported by local Pubwatch members and the South and Vale Community Safety Partnership.

Cllr Caroline Newton, Cabinet Member for Community Safety at South Oxfordshire District Council, said: “If you are on a date, particularly with someone you have only met before online, then ‘Ask for Angela’ provides that extra reassurance that there will be someone to turn to if that person turns out not to be what you were expecting.”

PC Stuart Betts said: “Thank you to all the members of the pub-watches in Abingdon and Didcot for being so supportive of the scheme. This is a great example of working closely with the community to safeguard potentially vulnerable people in the night-time economy.”

Although this is referring to Abingdon & Didcot no reason why local pubs couldn't join.

First community lottery draw

More than 800 tickets were sold prior to the first So Charitable Lottery draw last weekend.

The first draw saw 15 people win three free tickets each and raised £430 for local good causes and supporting the voluntary sector.

This is a great start for this initiative!

Waste and Recycling

Reminder - Cooking oil collected

We are now collecting cooking oil alongside food waste. Residents just need to empty the oil into a plastic bottle (no bigger than 1 litre) then put it in inside their food waste caddy when they leave it out for collection. We will only collect from plastic bottles and will not accept oil in glass bottles/jars or any other container.

We'll be promoting this new service to residents over the coming months

Town and parish forums update

Following our internal restructure, we've agreed to postpone the Town and Parish Forums that were initially scheduled for this summer.

This will give the new team that now arranges the forums a chance to get in touch with the town and parish councils to find out if the events are providing the information and support they want, and how they want to receive it.

In the coming weeks and months we will get in touch with the town and parish councils to ask for some feedback, which will help us design and plan future Town and Parish forums in a way that means everybody gets the most out of them.

Thames Valley Police.

Doorstep crime

Following a recent incident involving a suspicious door-to-door jewellery buyer, our community safety team has sent out the following advice from the police. Please would you help spread the guidance to your communities:

look through the door viewer or window to see who is outside

if you decide to open the door keep the door-chain on

check the caller's identity

call the organisation's phone number (by independently looking up first) to confirm their identity - remember official visitors will wait while you check

do not feel pressured into buying any items or services at the door

do not let them into your house or give them access to any private rooms

do not give them information on where valuables are kept

For more information on how you can protect yourself and others, please visit the Thames Valley Police website.

Council tax and business rates collection results 2017/18

Both South and Vale continue to be among the top performers in the country when it comes to collecting council tax and business rates.

Last year South Oxfordshire District Council recorded its best ever results for collecting the money during the year it was owed. We collected 98.8 per cent of the council tax owed for 2017/18 and 99 per cent of business rates.

This is great news as it means we have to spend less time and money attempting to recover money that is still owed to us.

Wallingford Outdoor Riverside Pool

The heated outdoor swimming pool by Wallingford Bridge is open for the summer season.

Riverside Outdoor Pool will be open from 7am - 8pm on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 7am - 6pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and from 9am - 6pm at weekends - until Monday 3 September. Jubilee Splash Park is already open on site for younger children to enjoy.

Riverside Park and Pools, located on the bank of the River Thames, is the perfect place to spend a lazy summer day. The site features a 23 metre pool, changing rooms, refreshments and a campsite.

A swim costs just £4.50 for adults, £2.90 for junior/seniors or £13.05 for a family swim (two adults and two children). Regular swimmers are also able to take advantage of a season pass for £71 for adults and £35 for juniors and seniors.

For more information about Riverside Park and Pools please visit the Riverside website or call 01491 835232.

£1.3m boost for community projects in 2017/18

Last year we provided more than £1.3million in grant funding to community projects in South Oxfordshire. Here's a quick summary of how we allocated the money:

Capital Grants

We awarded £715,408 to 19 projects, including £250,000 for a replacement club house at Thame Sports Club, £170,000 for a replacement roof and other improvements at Wallingford Corn Exchange, and £50,000 to refurbish a playground in Little Milton.

Revenue Grants

17 projects will benefit from £512,000, including £165,620 for the Citizens Advice Bureau, £46,000 for the South Oxfordshire Food and Education Alliance, and more than £24,000 for Be Free Young Carers.

Councillor Community Grants

Councillors awarded £156,000 to 106 projects, ranging from community events and coaching courses to fencing and flag poles.

Report by :-



Kevin Bulmer

District Councillor

Goring & South Stoke Ward

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District report by District Councillor kevin Bulmer

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SODC A Conservative District Councillor's View (Or What The Council Is Doing)

August 2018.

Councillor grants scheme 2018/19 now open

The District grants scheme is now open I have a modest £5,000 to distribute to worth schemes.

Applications to :- grants@southandvale.gov.uk

Basic rules of the scheme

- Projects must benefit the community in the councillor's ward area
- The minimum grant is £250 and the maximum £5,000 for each councillor (budget permitting)
- We can fund up to 100 per cent of the total cost of a project (budget permitting)
- The total project cost for applications for capital projects is £10,000 or less (one-off revenue projects have no such maximum)
- If successful, you must complete the project within 12 months of our grant award decision

Who is eligible?

- Town and parish councils and parish meetings (unless they operate a grant scheme of their own or budget for giving grants/donations in their annual budget)

- Local constituted 'not for profit' organisations whose primary purpose is to benefit the residents of South Oxfordshire.

Who is not eligible?

- Other local authorities/public sector bodies (for example Oxfordshire County Council, NHS trusts)
- Groups who raise funds on behalf of or will improve/create facilities that will predominately benefit an ineligible organisation (like PTAs delivering projects to benefit their school)
- Individuals (this includes making any payments to individuals on behalf of community groups)
- Profit-based businesses (private businesses)
- Political and lobbying groups
- Organisations who give grants or fund other not-for-profit organisations
- Nationwide organisations

Please note you will need to provide the following document(s) to support your application:

- A recent bank statement for each account held in your organisation's name

The following documents must also be available upon request (For Audit purposes we will check these for every fifth application and organisations we've not funded in the last 12 months):

- A copy of your governing document (like a constitution, set of rules, articles of association etc)
- Detailed financial records
- Confirmation that the organisation has named officers, members or trustees on a management committee/board

It's a yellow letter day in South and Vale as residents are urged to confirm their details

Residents in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse are urged to respond to a yellow letter which will arrive through their letter boxes in the coming days. The 'Household Enquiry Form' requires people to confirm who currently lives in their property.

As soon as people get their yellow letter they should visit

householdresponse.com/southandvale to confirm their details are correct or, if not, provide the correct information. You will need the code on the yellow letter to do this.

No imminent decision on Oxfordshire unitary council proposal

The government will not be making a decision on the proposals for a single unitary council for Oxfordshire for the foreseeable future.

The Minister for Local Government has written to the Leaders of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils explaining that the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government is not currently planning to announce a decision.

In his letter, the Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP explained that the government will be pausing its consideration for a unitary council while other changes to local government in Oxfordshire take place. Oxfordshire County Council is currently entering into a new partnership with Cherwell District Council after Cherwell's agreements with South Northamptonshire District Council came to an end as part of the restructuring of local government in Northamptonshire.

Cllr Jane Murphy, Leader at South Oxfordshire, said: "While we await a decision, we're doing everything we can to work more closely across Oxfordshire and the minister acknowledged the positive work we're doing with our partner councils to secure the very best infrastructure to support the housing growth happening in the county."

Council calls on MPs to back its preferred Oxford to Cambridge Expressway route

The Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council is calling on MPs to back its preferred route for the proposed Oxford to Cambridge Expressway.

Cllr Jane Murphy has written to the Rt Hon Chris Grayling, Secretary of State for Transport, setting out that the Council's preference for the Expressway is Corridor C, which would run between Milton Keynes and the A34 at Bicester via Buckinghamshire to the north and west of Oxford, along with sub-option C1 which would link back to the A34 between Abingdon and Didcot.

The Council believes its preferred route is the best option because:

- it would more closely align with the current main route along this corridor: A34-M40-A421- M1, helping alleviate congestion along this route
- it would more closely align with the growth locations along the corridor such as Bicester and Didcot Garden Town, and potential further growth areas in Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire

- it would more closely align with the other key east-west infrastructure schemes, such as East-West Rail.

The letter to the Secretary of State also sets out that, given the potential environmental harm to southern Oxfordshire, further consultation and engagement will be needed should it be decided by Highways England to back an alternative south of Oxford route.

Housing developer appeal rejected

A housing development of 95 homes in Sonning Common cannot go ahead after a planning inspector rejected an appeal by the developer.

South Oxfordshire District Council originally rejected the planning application for a development off Kennylands Road for a number of reasons, including the proposed development would harm the character and appearance of the local countryside, and because it wasn't consistent with the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan.

The developer appealed but the inspector dismissed it saying the site adds positively to the setting of the village and that the harm to this and the wider countryside would be significant if the development went ahead.

Cllr Felix Bloomfield, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning at South Oxfordshire District Council, said: "We're delighted the inspector has agreed that this proposal would not be sustainable development and would cause harm to the character and setting of one of our attractive larger villages. ***I'm also very pleased he gave significant weight to the local Neighbourhood Plan***, which local residents worked very hard on and continue to do so."

Report by :-



Kevin Bulmer

District Councillor

Goring & South Stoke Ward

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Recreation Issues - August 2018 Update**Gardiner Recreation Ground**

The childrens' play equipment working party met on August 7, and decided to seek further quotations for climbing frames suitable for 7+ year olds. There was a need for a GPC system for identifying sources of external funding.

Safety Inspection

The annual inspection of the childrens' play equipment in the Gardiner Recreation Ground and the Bourdillon Field has been carried out. Some maintenance is required, and the state of the matting in the Gardiner has been identified as high risk. We need to address the matting problem, and if possible to do some general maintenance to avoid more expensive repairs at a later date.

Sheepcot Recreation Ground

A motion to confirm the agreement in principle for the use of floodlights for Robins training this autumn is on the August GPC meeting agenda.

We are awaiting a response from sports club representatives for arrangements for a meeting to consider refurbishment of the pavilion. Cllrs. Reavill, Wills and Brooker have done an inspection of the pavilion. The need for a deep clean was evident. Cllr. Brooker is updating the list of repairs produced in 2016. A representative of the football club has offered to arrange assistance with the cleaning operation.

Bourdillon Field

Nothing more to report.

Rectory Garden

A report concerning ways the Garden might be made more attractive and its use increased is attached for Cllrs. to consider at the September meeting. Minor changes in line with the objectives and principles of the covenant are proposed. These include the provision of additional seats around the periphery of the garden, tubs or hanging baskets of flowers to make the garden more colourful, and a new notice board with more inviting wording which the Edmondson family have offered to sponsor. No changes are proposed to the layout of the Garden .

Lawrie Reavill

06.08.2018

Rectory Garden

At the GPC July meeting, Cllr. Urbick presented a paper on the legal position of the Council with regard to the Rectory Garden. I believe it is correct, and it concurs with external advice I have been given.

The role of Councillors is that of Trustees for the Rectory Garden, as in the Deed of Gift, and the associated Covenants. The Trustees have sole responsibility for the management of the Garden. We need to remain aware of the intended use of the garden for “exercise and recreation by the public”. The “stakeholders” are the trustees; the Goring community; and the Edmondson family. Cllr. Urbick has suggested that we should continue to consult the Edmondson family as a courtesy, and I strongly agree. They have maintained an interest in the Garden, and given financial support.

When I consulted members of the Edmondson last year, they strongly supported moves to make the Garden more attractive and used more by the community. They believed this would be the wish of Peggy Edmondson, in whose memory the Garden was created. Their suggestions included thinning the trees, as concern was expressed that branches were growing into adjacent trees. This has now been done. Other suggestions included flower beds, additional seats, and a more inviting wording on the notice board, which they were willing to sponsor.

To make the Garden more attractive, we need more light, more colour and more seats. This has strong public support. Public, semi-public, and private gardens in city centres illustrate how this can be done. I believe we should maintain the current layout, but do not think we should have flower beds. They would require significant maintenance, and we need to keep the grass areas clear so that larger scale events can be held in the Garden. We could, however, consider tubs or hanging baskets between the trees.

Following the thinning of the trees, I will circulate to Councillors some proposals for minor changes to the Garden which retain the current layout, such as additional seats around the periphery, flower baskets or tubs. A more user-friendly notice board could be installed, with wording that emphasises the purpose of the Garden.

If concern remains about the legality of these proposals, we should seek the advice of the Charities Commission. . They are much involved currently with helping with problems of charities which have outlived their original objective. If required, I could produce a draft letter with Bryan and Colin.

EVENTS REPORT prepared for GPC meeting 13th August 2018

1 George Michael Memorials

1a Bench and Statue
Nothing further to report.

1b Goring Parishioners have been welcoming the visiting fans of the late George Michael over the last 18 months, however privately Parish Councillors are hearing concerns about the impact of the influx on such a small village, in particular around the time of his birth date.
As reported last month the event hosted by the fans on Rectory Garden in June raised a significant sum for charity. Despite encouragement to arrive by public transport many came by car and the impact on parking, public conveniences and the noise levels in the centre of the village have in particular been cause for comment. It has been noted that this is in contrast to when George Michael lived amongst us, when his presence was quiet and he lived here without drawing attention to himself or his home.

So while the Parish sincerely wish to continue to be hospitable to all visitors there are concerns about the possibility that an annual George Michael memorial rally could inadvertently become established here which the village is unable to cope with.

Representatives of the fans group have expressed the desire to book Rectory Garden in 2019 to repeat the celebrations. I put it in front of the GPC councillors to decide whether this booking should go ahead.

Cllr Catherine Hall
7th August 2018

Goring-on-Thames Parish Council						
Accounts for payment July 2018						
Payee	Description			Amount	Date	Ref
Current Account						
BGG Garden & Tree Care	Litter picking May	3560		£ 588.00	11/07/2018	BACS104/18
British Gas	Sheepcot Gas Boiler repairs	3170		£ 69.28	27/07/2018	BACS113/18
Broxap	Dog waste bins	3910		£ 337.20	26/07/2018	BACS112/18
Colin Ratcliff	Salary (June)	2310	£ 1,429.38			
Colin Ratcliff	Car Allowance (June)	2110	£20.00	£ 1,449.38	31/07/2018	BACS116/18
Goring Hardware	Misc Items	3170		£ 4.00	11/07/2018	BACS103/18
HMRC	PAYE & NI June	2310		£ 844.49	09/07/2018	BACS101/18
J M Krzak	Cleaning July	2310		£ 315.17	31/07/2018	BACS117/18
M & C Landscapes	Grass Cutting June	3110		£ 2,002.93	11/07/2018	BACS105/18
Mike Ward	Salary	2310		£ 574.78	17/07/2018	BACS107/18
OCC	CC Car Park rent	3650		£ 3,412.10	20/07/2018	BACS111/18
Savages Ltd	Plants for GGIB	3330		£ 756.11	13/12/2018	BACS106/18
Sharpe Pritchard LLP	Weir Appeal Costs	6350		£ 6,700.00	20/07/2018	BACS110/18
SODC	Dog waste bins Apr to June 2018	3560		£ 104.77	27/07/2018	BACS114/18
SSE	Street Lights Maintenance June	3420		£ 1,033.62	20/07/2018	BACS108/18
SSE	Street Light Quarterly rechargeable repairs	3420		£ 473.42	19/07/2018	BACS109/18
Swift Office Stuff	Office supplies & chair	var		£ 366.48	11/07/2018	BACS102/18
Direct Debits/Standing Orders						
Castle Water	Water Gardiner Sprinkler	2260		£ 17.37	30/07/2018	DD
Castle Water	Water Sheepcot Pavilion	2260		£ 8.45	30/07/2018	DD
Castle Water	Water OJFS	2260		£ 10.79	30/07/2018	DD
Grundon Waste Management	Waste Transfer Notice - OJFS	3560		£ 78.62	20/07/2018	DD
Grundon Waste Management	Waste Transfer Notice - WHBG	3560		£ 78.62	20/07/2018	DD
Information Commissioner	Data Protection Fee	2410		£ 35.00	27/07/2018	DD
Mainstream Digital	Phone	2240		£ 2.82	16/07/2018	DD
NEST	Pension Contributions	2310		£ 90.22	31/07/2018	DD
SODC	Business rates	2290	£ 53.00			
SODC	Business rates	2290	£ 91.00	£ 144.00	01/07/2018	DD
SSE	Street lights unmetered electricity	3420		£ 342.14	20/07/2018	DD
Xerox Finance	Quarterly Lease Copier / Printer	2210		£ 90.58	02/07/2018	DD
Neighbourhood Plan						
Swift Office Stuff	Paper / office supplies	4908		£ 17.40	11/07/2018	BACS102/18
	Total:			£ 19,947.74		

Goring-on-Thames Parish Council					
Receipts received July 2018					
From	Description	Code	Date	Ref	Amount
TSB	Bank Interest	1190	10/07/2018	DC	£4.65
Terry Daniels	Litter Picking GM event	1134	05/07/2018	Inv 1159	£18.79
SSE	Rent Cleeve Road	1140	12/07/2018	500043	£10.00
Co-op Funeralcare	Interment - Ward	1130	12/07/2018	500043	£957.53
Highworth Memorials	Memorial - Ward	1130	31/07/2018	500044	£470.92
B Allen	Fitness Classes Gardiner	1141	10/07/2018	Inv 1160	£12.61
				Total:	£1,474.50

Goring on Thames Parish Council**Monthly Report Bank Account and Reserves Balances**As at: **31 July 2018****Reconciled Bank Account Balances**

Current TSB	£4,143.98
TSB Reserves	£102,775.80
Unpresented Payments	£0.00
Unpresented Receipts	£470.92
VAT Control Account	£5,875.25
Total	£113,265.95

Earmarked Reserves (Capital and Contingency)

Operating Reserve Account	R	£41,000.00	10k used for temp cash flow
Rectory Garden	R	£1,500.00	
Ferry Lane Riverbank Repairs	R	£0.00	
Ferry Lane Fence	R	£1,000.00	
Tree Felling and Replacement	R	£11,050.00	
Playground Equipment	C	£13,500.00	
MIGGS Pavement Widening	R	£5,000.00	
Car Park	R	£1,000.00	
Conservation Area Appraisal	R	£6,000.00	
Sheepcot Pavilion Refurbishment	R	£6,595.00	
Community Infrastructure Levy	C	£0.00	

Total Revenue Reserves £73,145.00**Total Capital Reserves** £13,500.00**Total Reserves** **£86,645.00****General Funds Available** **£26,620.95**

To: External Auditor (Moore Stephens UK, east.midlands@moorestephens.com)
 Copy to: Goring Parish Council
 Date: 27 June 2018

Goring-on-Thames Parish Council External Audit 2017-18

The Issues

An elector wants the External Auditor to consider the following:

1. There seems to have been unauthorised, unlawful spending.
2. It seems that legal action has been started without satisfying the statutory requirements for doing so.
3. The council has not been complying with its Publication Scheme.

Background

The council has been trying to overthrow a planning approval granted by South Oxfordshire District Council. It sought judicial review in the High Court and failed. It appealed, but the Court of Appeal turned it down. Then it started a new action under Civil Procedure Rule 52.30, seeking to reopen the appeal. CPR 52.30 is very difficult to sustain so, unsurprisingly, that was also refused.

So far the council has paid £43,715.17 to its solicitors, about half a year's precept. That is very large spending for action that could produce nothing of value. It appears to be wholly unreasonable or irrational, even if the council actually had the power to spend.

A Schedule of Key Dates is attached showing what happened and when.

Unauthorised Spending

Concern about unauthorised spending arises from the CPR 52.30 action. As the Schedule shows, the Appeal Court ended the council's legal action with a refusal on 13 February 2017. The CPR 52.30 application was lodged with the court on 27 March 2017. But there is no sign that at any time between those dates the council formally decided to proceed with the CPR 52.30 action.

A parish council can only take decisions at a council meeting, and only then if proper public notice of its consideration has been published on an agenda with three working days notice. There is no question of any delegated power being used. There was no meeting of a committee with delegated power in the relevant time period, nor can the council's clerk have had delegated power in that non-routine matter.

The council meeting on 13 February 2017 had *To note an update on the Appeal Court Application* on its agenda, but that was not sufficient to allow a decision about starting new legal action under CPR 52.30. Nor was there any legal advice or report giving details of what CPR 52.30 involved. The council could have called an extraordinary meeting, given members the opportunity to consider legal advice, the need to prove "real injustice" and "exceptional circumstances", and the costs to be incurred, then decided to proceed, but did not. Nor was it on any subsequent agenda.

Yet somehow the action was started without corporate council authorisation and expenditure was incurred. Consequently that expenditure was unlawful.

Starting legal action without satisfying the statutory requirements

It is no small thing for a parish council to start legal action involving substantial expenditure. The council needed to take particular care to stay within the law and to record its actions accordingly.

The council has not specified publicly what legal power it relies on for taking these legal actions. There is no question of using "general powers" legislation. This council is not eligible.

There is a power, of sorts, but it comes with the specific requirement that it can only be used if the council *consider it expedient for the promotion or protection of the interests of the inhabitants of their area*. That being a statutory precondition, the minutes should confirm that was the council's considered view. But there is no explicit reference to this legal requirement in any of the reports presented to the council, or in any of the minutes. The function of minutes is to be the definitive record of decisions. If something is not in the minutes, it cannot be claimed that it happened.

All of the legal actions are affected, but particularly, since the CPR 52.30 action was not formally considered by the council, it definitely could not have come to any conclusion about whether the council consider it expedient for the promotion or protection of the interests of the inhabitants of their area. So the action is unlawful.

It follows that the council's claim in section 3 of its Annual Governance Statement is not correct.

Adherence to Publication Scheme

Parish councils have a legal duty to proactively publish information. This council's publication scheme, as notified to the Information Commissioner's Office, requires agendas, their reports, and minutes to be on the website, as well as other specified documents.

During the year, the council changed its website. The old (goringpc.org) website was made unavailable and replaced with a different layout and name (goringpc.gov). The old website had meeting documents for the last decade; the new has no meeting documents prior to 2018.

This means that the claims in sections 3 and 4 of the Annual Governance Statement are not correct.

It also makes it impossible to browse through documents to see what happened, and when, during the year under audit. From the public perspective, it was not clear what vague references to continuing legal action actually meant. There was mention of "a rarely used procedure", but it was not clear until the judgement appeared on the internet that CPR 52.30 was involved and action had been started in April 2017. Only then was it possible to prepare the simple Schedule of Key Dates that supports this complaint. And some of the details in that schedule may not be entirely correct, because they cannot be checked by browsing the website.

So, breach of the legal duty to fulfil the publication scheme significantly hampered preparation and presentation of this complaint.

What should be done?

This council is not good at accepting that it makes mistakes. The External auditor should use whatever combination of actions will bring it home to the council that it has been badly at fault, and needs to explain itself to the electorate.

If the decisions made are seen to be beyond powers or irrational, application to a court to confirm illegality is called-for, so that the money can be recovered. Or if that is not thought appropriate, a Report in the Public Interest would give appropriate public notice of the unlawful actions.

A statutory recommendation, other recommendations, or an advisory notice would probably be so blandly handled as to pass without substantial public awareness, as was the case for similar actions by external auditors on several occasions over the last few years.

Judicial review seeking to overturn a planning approval

Goring Parish Council (GPC) v South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) and Environment Agency (EA)

Key Dates

9 March 2016	Planning Approval
2 April 2016	Extraordinary PC: Send Pre Action Protocol letter. Form Weir Committee.
11 April 2016	PC meeting: Minutes of 2/4/16 approved. Verbal report. <i>Nothing explicitly giving Weir Committee delegated powers to act.</i>
18 April 2016	Weir Committee meeting: Proceed with action.
9 May 2016	PC Meeting: Weir committee members to approve minutes of 18/4/16. Appointment of Weir Committee members. Council receives minutes of 18/4/16 Weir Committee.
17 May 2016	Legal fees paid to solicitor, £2,990.40
24 May 2016	Legal fees paid to solicitor, £9,398.69
13 June 2016	Weir Committee. Told: Action has started. "GPC's costs should be capped at £10k"
15 September 2016	Donation received by GPC: £6,000 towards legal costs from <i>Stop Goring Hydro</i>
17 October 2016	Weir committee. Confidential consideration: EA to be released from the action.
9 November 2016	High Court hearing, one day.
16 November 2016	Date shown on application for permission to appeal.
17 November 2016	High Court decision: judicial review refused.
24 November 2016	Weir Committee: High Court judgement should be taken to appeal. <i>There were no more Weir Committee meetings before May 2018.</i>
29 November 2016	Sealed order by High Court: Judicial Review refused, permission to appeal refused
8 December 2016	PC told on 13/2/17 "the application was lodged with the Court of Appeal" on this date
30 December 2016	Legal fees paid to solicitor, £18,768.42
<hr/>	
9 February 2017	Court of Appeal ruling: appeal refused.
13 February 2017	PC agenda item "To note an update on the Appeal Court Application" <i>This meeting could not have decided to start new legal action using Civil Procedure Rule 52.30 (CPR 52.30) because it was not on the agenda.</i>
13 March 2017	PC meeting: Nothing about the legal action.
27 March 2017	Application notice to Court of Appeal to re-open appeal under CPR 52.30 <i>So when, and by whom, was the decision made to start new legal action using CPR 52.30? That rule is "to avoid real injustice" in exceptional circumstances.</i>
8 May 2017	Council reappoints Weir Committee members at Annual meeting. <i>Nothing about the legal action was on the agenda.</i> "The Chairman stated the weir legal issues could not yet be discussed in public".
12 May 2017	Legal fees paid to solicitor, £4,307.42
1 November 2017	Legal fees paid to solicitor, £5,567.40
<hr/>	
22 February 2018	Donation received by GPC: £5,500 towards legal costs from <i>Stop Goring Hydro</i>
12 March 2018	Council meeting told hearing due at the Appeal Court on 20 March 2018.
20 March 2018	Court of Appeal listing: "Application of Claimant for permission to appeal and a protective costs order with appeal to follow if granted."
20 March 2018	Legal fees paid to solicitor, £2,682.84
25 April 2018	Appeal Court judgement: "For those reasons we conclude that the application to re-open falls well short of meeting the requirements of CPR 52.30(1). The parish council has suffered no "real injustice". The application is therefore dismissed."

July 2018**Grant Expenditure budgeted for and paid to date:**

	Budgeted Sum	Amount Paid
Churches S214(6) LG Act 1972	£50.00	
Transport s.26-29 LGR Act 1997 (Readibus)	£800.00	
Goring Gap in Bloom s.137 LG Act 1972	£1,500.00	£795.01
The Gap Festival s. 145 LG Act 1972	£4,000.00	£4,000.00
Christmas Trees and Lights s.144 LG Act 1972	£700.00	
Unallocated General Budget	£978.00	
MIGGS s.144 LG Act 1972		
G&S Food and Drink Festival s.145 LG Act 1972		
Goring Robins FC s.137 LG Act 1972		
Age UK Oxon s.142 LG Act 1972		
Total to date	£8,028.00	£4,795.01
Total from unallocated		£0.00
Remaining unallocated	£978.00	

S.137 Payments are limited to a set allowance of **£20,899.74** based on an allowance of £7.86 per elector for this year (2659 electors).

NB. Original budget for year amended in July 2018

MACULAR SOCIETY GORING-ON-THAMES SUPPORT GROUP

4th August 2018

For the Attention of The Clerk
Goring-on-Thames Parish Council
Old Jubilee Fire Station
Red Cross Road
Goring
Reading RG8 9HG

Dear Sir

Application for Charity Grant on behalf of the Macular Society Goring-on-Thames Support Group

I am the Secretary of the Macular Society Goring-on-Thames Support Group and on behalf of our members, would like to apply for a grant from Goring Parish Council.

The Support Group objectives are as follows:

- To encourage newly diagnosed individuals to attend the meetings which are held in Goring Village Hall where they are able to meet others with the same condition in a friendly relaxed environment. As many members are very elderly and some have limited opportunities to socialise, attendance at these meetings is an important lifeline for them in combating loneliness.
- To provide support and help for anyone diagnosed with a Macular condition and to extend help to their families and support network. Members are encouraged to attend meetings with their partners so that they may meet other couples in a similar situation.

Size of the Group

On average, approximately 20 members attend each meeting. Most members live in Goring as they are more easily able to attend if they are mobile. A few members live in Woodcote and Streatley.

Meeting Format

The meetings are held every two months on a Friday afternoon in the Belleme Room and following a talk by a speaker, tea and cakes are served.

There is always an invited speaker who is chosen because the subject will be of particular interest to the members. Recent speakers have included an eye surgeon, a gadget guide demonstrator and a Community First Responder.

Funding

The Support Group is run by voluntary organisers, helpers and drivers and it is entirely self-supporting. Running costs include annual hall rental, speakers' fees, food, refreshments, raffle prizes and bus hire (for annual summer tea party at local Manor House).

Income is derived from members' subscriptions (£3 per meeting payable on the day) and raffle money. We were successful in a recent application to Waitrose to be included in their monthly charity token scheme and last Christmas, Tesco Express at Goring kindly donated boxes of chocolates to enable us to give members a small Christmas gift.

Grant Application

We would like to apply for a grant for £300 towards the cost of next year's hall rental which is payable in January 2019. Last year's rental was £331.00 and it is anticipated that next year's rental will be slightly higher.

I, along with my fellow organisers, Ann Moody and Sue Melsher, took over the running of the Group in January 2017 as it was in danger of folding. I had been a driver for the Group for some time so knew how much these meetings were appreciated by the members. We are keen to do our utmost to continue to provide this service to local residents.

We would be very grateful if the Parish Council would kindly consider our application for a grant. I would be very happy to provide any further information you require.

With kind regards.

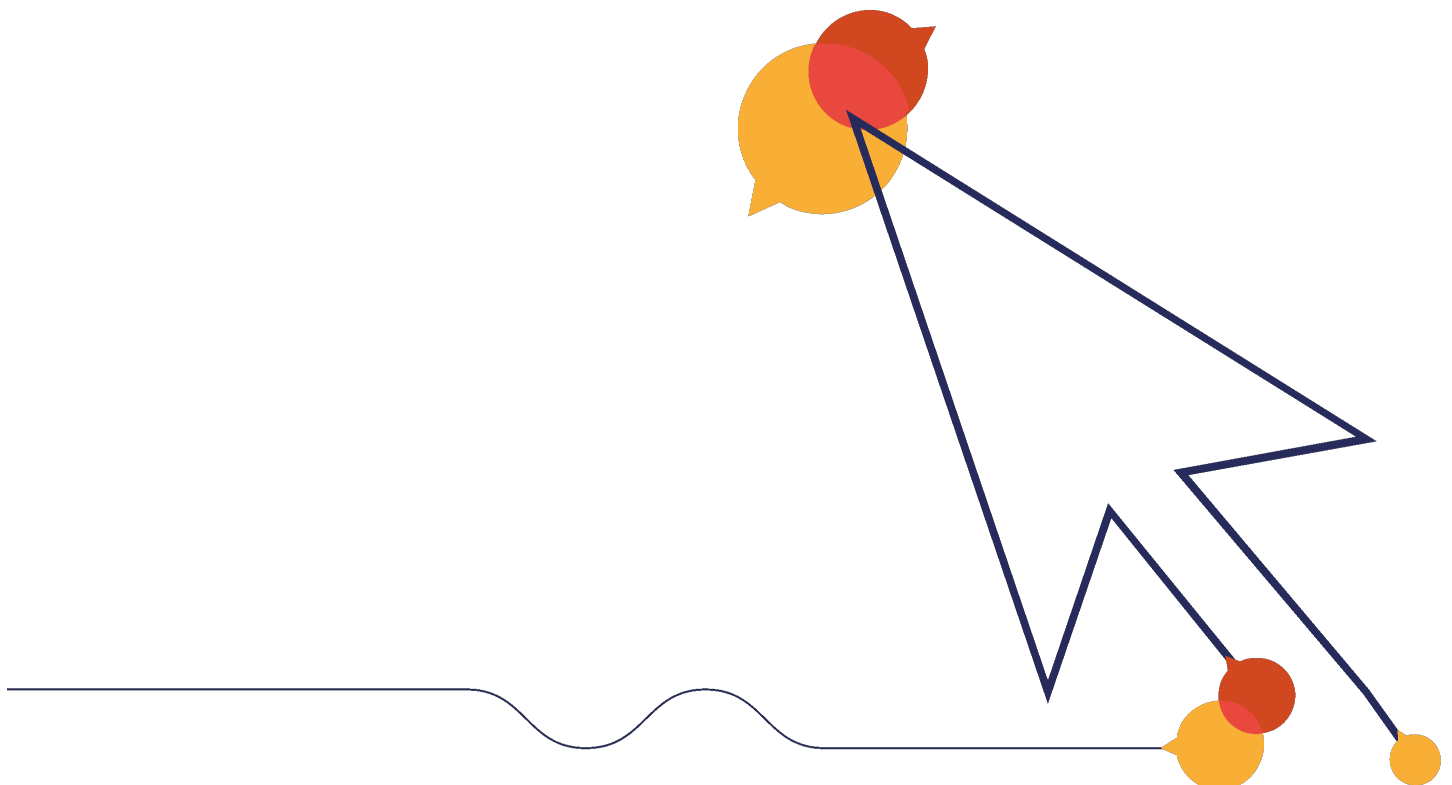
Yours faithfully

Rowena Buie
Secretary
Macular Society Goring-on-Thames Support Group

Gardiner Recreation Ground

Goring-on-Thames Parish Council

19 July 2018



Safety Inspection Report

Site name: **Gardiner Recreation Ground**
Date of inspection: **19 July 2018**
Inspector: **Rae Adams**



The assets on site are categorised as **Ancillary Items** or **Play Items**, and listed under those headings.

Each **Ancillary Item** is listed in this way:

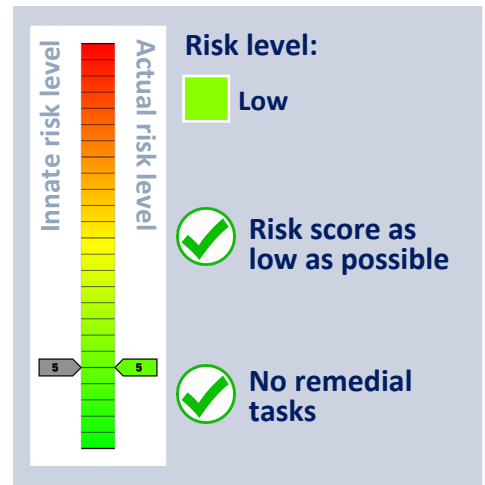
Name of item or items	(some listings may include multiple items)
Default risk = n	(This is the item's intrinsic risk if in pristine condition)
Photo	(A representative photo is included)
Findings	(Findings are listed with remedial action, risk score and photograph. If no faults are listed the item is satisfactory and assumes the Default risk.)

Each **Play Item** is listed in this way:

Name of item	
Manufacturer	(The name of the manufacturer or supplier, if known)
Applicable Standard:	(The number of any applicable standards are shown here)
Default risk = n	(This is the item's intrinsic risk if in pristine condition)
Photo	
Faults	(Findings are listed with remedial action, risk score and photograph. If no faults are listed the item is satisfactory and assumes the Default risk.)

The risk score for any items is the higher of the Default risk or the Finding risk.

The Overall Site



Finding

Description

Additional comments are noted below.

Tasks

No Tasks for this Finding

Note

Some items fail the current EN standards, but were installed prior to the standards coming into force. The standards are not retrospect - please note the failures and monitor.

Photo not possible

Risk level:

Low

Risk score:

4

Fencing



Innate risk level

Actual risk level

3

3

Risk level:

Very low

✓

Risk score as low as possible

Remedial tasks:

1

Finding

Description
Minor repairs are needed.
Tasks
Repair.
Note
Sign requires repair.

Risk level:

Very low

Risk score:

3

Finding Photos



Gates x 2

Manufactured by (Unknown)



Standards: ✓

The item meets with the requirements of the relevant standards.

Litter Bin



Innate risk level

Actual risk level

3

3

Risk level:

Very low

✓

Risk score as low as possible

Remedial tasks:

1

Finding

Description	
Item is rusting in places.	
Tasks	
Read the notes for further action.	
Note	
Bin is rusting and not secure - replace and make good.	
Finding Photos	



Risk level:

Very low

Risk score:

3

Seating - Bench



Innate risk level

Actual risk level

3

3

Risk level:

Very low

✓

Risk score as low as possible

Remedial tasks:

1

Finding

Description

Surface is wearing.

Tasks

Repair.

Note

Surface in front of bench is wearing and concrete foundation visible.

Risk level:

Very low

Risk score:

3

Finding Photos



Climber - Igloo

Manufactured by (Unknown)



Innate risk level

Actual risk level

3

5

Risk level:

Low

Potential risk score reduction:

2

Remedial tasks:

2



Standards:

The item is not compliant with the requirements of the relevant standards.

Finding

Description

The unit does not meet the requirements of the standard.

Tasks

The unit pre-dates current standards and no reasonable action is identified.

Note

Unit pre dates EN standards.

Risk level:

Low

Risk score:

5

Finding Photos



Finding

Description

The supports are within the falling or free space area.

Tasks

No reasonably practicable action is identified.

Note

Risk level:

Low

Risk score:

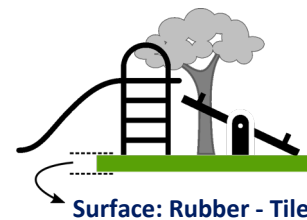
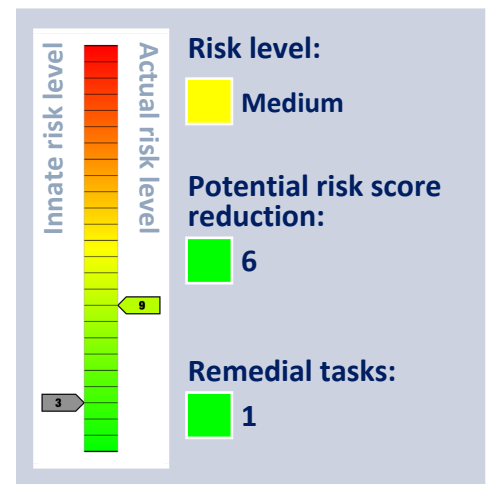
5

Finding Photos



Swing - Toddler - 1 Bay 2 Seat

Manufactured by (Unknown)



Standards:



EN 1176-1:2017, EN 1176-2:2017

The item meets with the requirements of the relevant standards.

Finding

Description

Fittings are rusty.

Tasks

No Tasks for this Finding

Note

Monitor and consider replacement.

Risk level:

Very low

Risk score:

2

Finding Photos



Finding

Description

The edges of the safer surface are curling/shrunk and are a trip hazard.

Tasks

Read the notes for further action.

Note

Tiles starting to lift - repair / replace.

Risk level:

 Medium

Risk score:

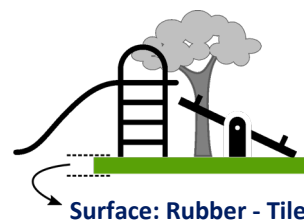
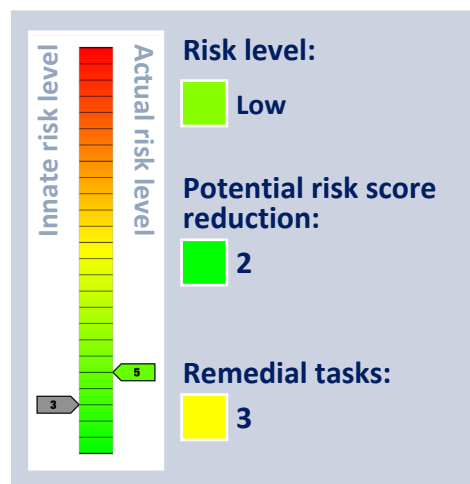
 9

Finding Photos



Multiplay - Toddler

Manufactured by (Unknown)



Standards:

EN 1176-1:2017

The item is not compliant with the requirements of the relevant standards.

Finding

Description

Bolt(s) loose.

Tasks

Read the notes for further action.

Note

Bolt missing from middle wooden slat on bridge - replace bolt and make good.

Risk level:

Very low

Risk score:

2

Finding Photos



Finding

Description

There is significant corrosion on this item.

Tasks

Read the notes for further action.

Note

Support legs showing signs of underground corrosion causing expansion and split - monitor.

Risk level:



Low

Risk score:



4

Finding Photos



Finding

Description

Access fails entrapment requirements.

Tasks

No reasonably practicable action is identified.

Note

Risk level:



Low

Risk score:



5

Finding Photos



Rocker - Horse

Manufactured by (Unknown)



Innate risk level

Actual risk level

3

4

Risk level:

Low

Potential risk score reduction:

1

Remedial tasks:

2



Standards:

EN 1176-1:2017, EN 1176-6:2017
The item is not compliant with the requirements of the relevant standards.

Finding

Description

Fittings are rusty.

Tasks

Read the notes for further action.

Note

Underside of spring starting to rust - monitor.

Risk level:

Low

Risk score:

4

Finding Photos



Finding

Description

Protruding handles / foot rests.

Tasks

No reasonably practicable action is identified.

Note

Risk level:

■ Very low

Risk score:

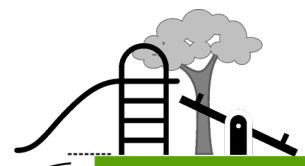
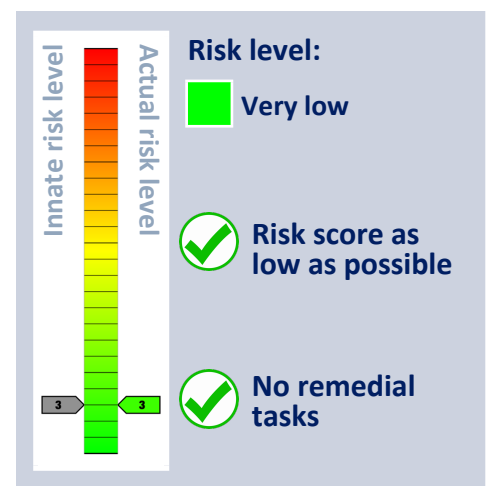
■ 3

Finding Photos



Rocker - Seesaw

Manufactured by (Unknown)



Surface: Rubber - Tile

Standards:

EN 1176-1:2017, EN 1176-6:2017

The item meets with the requirements of the relevant standards.

Slide

Manufactured by (Unknown)



Innate risk level

Actual risk level

6

6

Risk level:

Low

✓

Risk score as low as possible

Remedial tasks:

4



Standards:

EN 1176-1:2017, EN 1176-3:2017

The item is not compliant with the requirements of the relevant standards.

Finding

Description

Surface needs repair.

Tasks

Repair.

Note

Surface tiles are lifting and require repair.

Risk level:

Low

Risk score:

6

Finding Photos



Finding

Description

Access fails entrapment requirements.

Tasks

No reasonably practicable action is identified.

Note

Risk level:



Low

Risk score:



5

Finding Photos



Finding

Description

The spacing between the barrier bars is in excess of 89 mm.

Tasks

No reasonably practicable action is identified.

Note

Risk level:



Low

Risk score:



5

Finding Photos



Finding

Description

The supports are within the falling or free space area.

Tasks

No reasonably practicable action is identified.

Note

Risk level:

Low

Risk score:

5

Finding Photos



General Notes

The risk scores are calculated by plotting the likelihood of harm against the severity of the injury sustained. The likelihood is given a score of 1 to 5, and the severity is given a score of 1 to 5. In doing this a matrix is produced which gives a numerical assessment of the risk on a score of 1 to 25, and a judgement is made as to which risks are low, which are medium and which are high. Risk scores may be adjusted in the light of experience and therefore may not be exactly as per the table. For example, a score of 7 may be noted.

Risks are calculated in this way:

1. An assessment of the likelihood of harm taking place is made using the numbers 1 to 5, by following these descriptions:
 - a. 1 = Rare
 - b. 2 = Unlikely
 - c. 3 = Moderate
 - d. 4 = Likely
 - e. 5 = Certain
2. An assessment of the severity of the injury sustained is made using the numbers 1 to 5, by following these descriptions:
 - a. 1 = Insignificant
 - b. 2 = Minor
 - c. 3 = Moderate
 - d. 4 = Major
 - e. 5 = Catastrophic
3. The two numbers are multiplied to give a risk score on a scale of 1 to 25.
4. Scores of 1 to 7 inclusive are considered to be low risk and are considered to be tolerable,
5. Scores of 8 to 14 are considered to be medium risk and some control measures may be identified to reduce the risks to low, tolerable levels,
6. Score of 15 and above are considered to be high risk and urgent action is considered to be necessary to reduce the risks to tolerable levels.

General Notes

It is important to note that where an outcome is catastrophic, but for which the likelihood is rare this will present a score of $1 \times 5 = 5$ = low risk. Similarly, a certain event for which the consequence is insignificant will present a score of $5 \times 1 = 5$ = low risk. It is important to consider likelihood and consequence, and not just one of the factors in isolation.

The multiplication of the factors into a risk matrix is given here in Table 1, with a judgement made as to risk scoring indicated by colour.

Green = LOW risk, Amber = MEDIUM risk, Red = HIGH risk.

Table 1 – Risk Score Matrix

L i k e l i h o o d	Severity					
		1 Insignifi- cant	2 Minor	3 Moderate	4 Major	5 Catastro- phic
	1 = Rare	1 LOW	2 LOW	3 LOW	4 LOW	5 LOW
	2 = Unlikely	2 LOW	4 LOW	6 LOW	8 MEDIUM	10 MEDIUM
	3 = Moderate	3 LOW	6 LOW	9 MEDIUM	12 MEDIUM	15 HIGH
	4 = Likely	4 LOW	8 MEDIUM	12 MEDIUM	16 HIGH	20 HIGH
	5 = Certain	5 LOW	10 MEDIUM	15 HIGH	20 HIGH	25 HIGH

General Notes

Equipment has been assessed for compliance with the appropriate standards, which are listed next to each item. Compliance with these standards is not mandatory in law, but it is useful to know whether items comply or not. If we think a change is needed, then this is noted in our report. Non-compliance does not necessarily mean that a change is needed.

Compliance with standards is not always a clear-cut thing. Some interpretation can be needed, and our interpretation may differ from the interpretation of others. In some cases, we may decide not to note non-compliance in cases where we think it may mislead or be unhelpful so to do.

Exposure to acceptable levels of risk and challenge is essential to children's development and allows them to exercise their right to play. Therefore, it can be judged that levels of risk above low risk can be acceptable. The risk scores shown allow the operator to make a judgement after first considering the benefit of the activity to which the risk score relates.

There may be cases where we report issues that are not the site owner's responsibility. It is not necessarily possible for us to determine who owns what, and in any case we need to bring all risks to your attention if they can affect the safety of the site's users.

Our report shows the findings at the time of inspection. Subsequent events may affect the condition of the site. We have inspected without dismantling or destruction and so some aspects of the relevant standards may not be testable on site.

Where timbers are set into the ground it is not always possible to determine levels of decay. The owner should ensure they conduct appropriate inspections to identify decay before it becomes a problem.



EN 1176 Notes – Summary of Requirements

PROTECTION AGAINST INJURIES IN THE FREE SPACE

- * No obstacles in the minimum space (other than structures to assist or safeguard the user)
- * Traffic flows should not go through the minimum space

PROTECTION AGAINST INJURIES IN THE FALLING SPACE

- * Free height of fall should not exceed 3m
- * No obstacles in the falling space
- * Platforms with fall heights of more than 1m between them require surfacing

PROTECTION AGAINST INJURIES DUE TO OTHER TYPES OF MOVEMENT

- * No unexpected obstacles

SURFACING SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- * Surfacing should have no sharp edges or protrusions
- * Loose fills should be 100mm more than the depth required to meet the HIC reading (usually 200mm)
- * Hard surfaces should only be used outside where children fall
- * Testable Impact absorbing surfaces if falls over 600mm are possible. Topsoil or turf may be used up to 1m

DESIGN AND MANUFACTURE

- * The equipment must be suitable for the user and risks should be identifiable by the child
- * Accessibility: adults must be able to gain access to help children
- * Grip requirements: permitted diameter 16 - 45mm (i.e. overhead bars)
- * Grasp requirements: maximum diameter 60mm (e.g. handrails on steps)
- * Requirements for easily accessible equipment

FINISHING

- * Timber species and synthetics should be splinter resistant
- * No protrusions or sharp-edged components
- * Bolts should not protrude by more than 8mm
- * Corners, edges or projecting parts over 8mm should have a 3mm radius.
- * No hard and sharp-edged parts (e.g. razor blade effect caused by sheet steel)
- * No crushing or shearing points
- * Connections should not come loose by themselves and should resist removal.
- * Timber connections should not rely solely on screws or nails.
- * Leaking lubricants should not stain or impair the safety of the equipment

FIBRE ROPES

- * Conform to EN 701 or 919 or have a material and load certificate
- * Ropes used by hands shall have a soft, non-slip covering

WIRE ROPES

- * Non-rotating and corrosion resistant with no splayed wires outside the ferrule
- * Wire connector clip threads should protrude less than 8mm
- * Turnbuckles should be enclosed, have a loop at each end and be secured

CHAINS

- * Maximum opening of individual links: 8.6mm in any one direction.
- * Connecting links between chains must be less than 8.6mm or over 12mm

SWINGING SUSPENDED ROPES

- * Not combined with swings in the same bay
- * Less than 2m long: over 600mm from static parts; over 900mm from swinging parts
- * 2m - 4m long: over 1000mm from anything
- * Diameter: 25 - 45mm

CLIMBING ROPES

- * Anchored at both ends and movement less than 20% of rope length
- * Single climbing rope diameter: 18 - 45mm (nets comply with Grip requirements)

ENTRAPMENTS

- * Entrapment: a place from which children cannot extricate themselves unaided
- There are six probes: the Torso Probe, the Large Head Probe, The Small Head probe, the Wedge Probe and the two Finger Rods. There is a toggle test to reduce the dangers of clothing toggles being caught on slides, fireman's poles and roofs, and a ring gauge to test for rocker hand/foot rest protrusions.

BRIDGES

- * The space between the flexible bridge and rigid sides should be not less than 230mm

ENTRAPMENT OF FEET AND LEGS

- * Inclined planes (not suspension bridges) less than 38° should have no gaps over 30mm
- * There are no requirements for suspension bridge gaps other than the main entrapment requirements

FINGER ENTRAPMENTS

- These occur in: 1. gaps where child's movement may cause a finger to become stuck; 2. open-ended tubes; 3. moving gaps
- * Tube ends should be securely enclosed and removable only with tools
 - * Moving gaps should not close to less than 12mm

BARRIERS AND GUARD-RAILS

- * Hand-rail: a rail to help the child balance
- * Guard-rail: a rail to prevent children falling
- * Barrier: a guard-rail with non-climbable in-fill

HAND-RAILS

- * Where required they should be between 600 and 850mm above the standing surface

EQUIPMENT FOR UNDER 3'S

- * Platforms over 600mm require a barrier with a minimum height of 700mm high + impact absorbing surfacing

EQUIPMENT FOR OVER 3'S

- * Platforms up to 1000mm: No barriers or guard-rails required + impact absorbing surface over
- * Platforms 1000-2000mm: 600 - 850mm high guard-rail + impact absorbing surfacing
- * Platforms 2000-3000mm: 700mm high barrier + impact absorbing surfacing
- * No bars, infills or steps which can be used as steps. Tops should discourage standing or sitting

MEANS OF ACCESS

- The main change in this area is that the probes should now be applied to accesses. All means of access should have no entrapments; be securely fixed; be level to $\pm 3^\circ$ (ramps across width) and have a constant angle. It does not refer to agility equipment used as an access i.e. arched climbers, scramble nets. There are specific measurements for ladders, stairs and ramps.

EN 1176 Notes – Summary of Requirements

SWINGS

The main changes relate to requirements for new types of swings, dimensions and surfacing areas.

REQUIREMENTS

* No all rigid suspension members (i.e. solid bar top to bottom) * Design should be principally for use by seated children (RoSPA interpretation) * Two seats per bay maximum. Do not mix cradle and flat seats in same bay * Some types of swings have slightly different requirements. Information should be obtained from the supplier * Single point swing chains should not twist round each other * Single point swings require a secondary bearing support mechanism

DIMENSIONS

* Minimum ground clearance at rest: 350mm (400mm for single point swings and tyres) * No maximum seat surface height but RoSPA recommends a max. height of 635mm for cradles and flat seats * Distance between seat and frame: 20% of swing suspension + 200mm * Distance between seats: 20% of the swing suspension + 300mm * Pivot splay (separation distance) at crossbar: width between seat fixings plus 5% of swing suspension length

SITING

* Swing sets for young children should be separated from those for older children and sited to avoid cross traffic

SURFACING REQUIREMENTS

Forward and Back

* Different areas for synthetic and loose-fill surfaces in a box or pit. Measurements each way are: 1. synthetic: $0.867 \times \text{length of suspension member} + 1.75\text{m}$ 2. loose-fill: $0.867 \times \text{length of suspension member} + 2.25\text{m}$

Side width

* Seat width no greater than 500mm: 1.75m minimum (i.e. .875m each way from seat centre)

* Areas for two seats in one bay may overlap providing the distance between seats is correct

Single point swings

* Circular area with a radius equal to the Forward and Backward figure for other swings

SLIDES

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

* Free-standing slides: the max. vertical height which a stairway can reach without a change of direction is 2.5m. * Starting section at the top of each chute: length 350mm minimum, zero to 5° downwards at the centre line.

N.B. This can be the platform if the slide is attached to it * If the starting section is over 400mm long, platform requirements apply *

From a platform, the gap to the slide is the same width as the slide * Attachment slides over 1m free fall height should have starting section barriers 500mm min. high at one point * Attachment slides over 1m FFH should have a guard-rail across the entrance at a ht. of between 700-900mm

Sliding sections

* Maximum angle: 60° at any one point and an average of 40° * The width of open and straight slides over 1500mm long should be less than 700mm or greater than 950mm * Spiral or curved slides should have a width less than 700mm

RUN -OUTS

* Run-outs of at least 300mm are required if the sliding section is under 1.5m long. * Additional requirements are required for different types of slides * Average angle of run-outs: DIN type 10° (BS type) 5° (both downwards) * Height of run-out: Less than 1.5m sliding length: max. 200mm. Greater than 1.5m sliding length: max. 350mm * Users should come to a stop on the run-out section (BS type only)

* Chutes should have a side height related to the fall height: 1.2m: 100mm minimum : 1.2m - 2.5m: 150mm minimum : Over 2.5m: 500mm minimum

* Maximum side angle from slide bed: 30° * Tops of sides should be rounded or radiused to at least 3mm * Tunnel slides should be a minimum 750mm high and 750mm wide * Tunnels should start on or at the end of the starting section and be continuous over the sliding section only

SURFACING REQUIREMENTS

Normal distances except for the run-out which should be: * DIN type: 1m each side and 2m beyond (or just 1.5m beyond for short slides) * BS type: 1m each side and 1m beyond

CABLE RUNWAYS

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

* Stop at end should progressively slow down the traveller * Traveller should not be removable except with tools * No access to internal mechanism * Suspension mechanism: flexible, exclude risk of strangulation or be at least 2m above the ground in the middle * Where children hang by the hands, the grip should not be enclosed (i.e. a loop)

* Climbing should be discouraged onto the grip * Children should be able to get off the seat at any time (i.e. no loops or straps) *

Maximum loaded (69.5kg) speed is 7m per second * If two cables are placed parallel the min. distance between them is 2m

IMPACT AREAS

* 2m either side of main cable

ROTATING ITEMS

The main changes are in clearer separation into different types. A change in the clearance between the underside and the ground will affect older items. The change should provide greater safety. NOTE: Rotating items under 500mm diameter are excluded from these requirements

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

* Maximum free height of fall: 1000mm (For overhead items: 1500 - 3000mm) * Max. speed at periphery under reasonable use: 5m per second. As no method is given, this cannot be tested * Hand grips should be between 16 - 45mm

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

There are specific requirements for different types of roundabout. The two most common ones are:

Platform roundabouts:

EN 1176 Notes – Summary of Requirements

* Platforms should be circular and enclosed * All parts should revolve in the same direction * No super-structure over the edge of the platform * Mechanism should be enclosed * Height between underside and ground 60 – 110mm for 300mm in * Protective skirts should be of rigid material and have no burrs or other defects * The bottom edge should be flared towards the inside or protected

Giant revolving discs

* Clearance of underside at lowest point: 300mm * Max. platform height: 1m * Free space: 3m * Upper surface should be continuous, smooth and with no handles or grips * Underside should be continuous, smooth and without any radial variations (i.e. spokes) or indentations

MINIMUM SPACE

* Free space: Horizontal: 2m all round * Vertical head clearance from platform: sitting 1.5m ; standing 1.8m * Small rotating items under 500mm diameter are excluded but RoSPA suggests as for rocking items

SURFACING REQUIREMENTS

* There are no special extra requirements for surfacing areas * Surfaces should be continuous underneath and level

ROCKING ITEMS

DEFINITIONS

* Rocking equipment which can be moved by the user and is supported from below

* Damping: any movement restricting device. (N.B. Springs are treated as self-damping)

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

* Throughout the range of movement gaps in all accessible joints should be under 12mm * Progressive restraint at extremity of movement is required * Foot rests should be provided where the ground clearance is less than 230mm * Hand grips should be provided for each seat or standing position

* Foot rests and hand grips should be firmly fixed and non-rotating * Hand grip diameter: 16 - 45mm (for toddler items: 30mm maximum) * Right -angled corners on moving equipment should be 20mm radius min. (e.g. a bird's beak)

MINIMUM SPACE

* 1000mm between items at maximum movement.

SURFACING REQUIREMENTS

There are no special extra requirements for surfacing areas

INSTALLATION, INSPECTION, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION

SAFETY

* Appropriate safety systems must be established by the operator * No access should be allowed to unsafe equipment or areas * Records should be kept by the playground operator * Effectiveness of safety measures should be assessed annually * Signs should be provided giving owner details and emergency service contact points * Entrances for emergency services should be freely accessible * Information on accidents should be kept (RoSPA has a suitable form)

* Staff and users should be safe during maintenance operations

INSPECTION

* Manufacturers will recommend the inspection frequency although some sites may need a daily check

Frequency

Routine visual inspections: identification of hazards from vandalism, use or weather conditions (RoSPA recommends a recorded daily or weekly inspection) Operational inspection: every 1 -3 months or as recommended. Checks operation, stability, wear etc. Annual main inspection: checks long-term levels of safety

* An inspection schedule should be prepared for each playground, listing components and methods

* Appropriate action should be taken if defects are noted

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

* Basic routine maintenance details should be supplied by the manufacturer

CORRECTIVE MAINTENANCE

* This covers remedial work and repairs as required * Alterations should only be carried out after consultation & agreement with the supplier or a competent person





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