**PNewton Parish Council Play area Committee**.

Draft Minutes of a meeting on 16 March 2016 at Car Colston Village Hall, 7.30pm to 9.05pm.

Cllrs present

Mrs I Shouler

Mrs J Dobson

Mrs M Topping

D Simms

A Forward

In attendance

E Temple (minute taker)

Mrs K Waters

J Stray

1. Resolved that Mrs I Shouler be elected Chair of the Committee. Proposed by Cllr Simms seconded by Cllr Forward and all in favour.

2. Resolved that Mr A Forward be elected Vice-Chair of the Committee. Proposed by Cllr Simms seconded by Cllr Topping and all in favour.

3. Agenda. The Chair proposed the following agenda, that the meeting discuss the proposed new play area at Newton, background information, its location, construction and choice of equipment, maintenance, public consultation, financing and timescales. This was agreed.

4. Location

Various possible sites were discussed. It was noted that Newton PC already has a 25 year lease of an area of land at Wellington Avenue for which it pays £10 pa rent. This site already has outline planning permission for a play area.

Resolved that the Committee recommend to Council that the full area at Wellington Avenue edged red on the attached plan be selected as the site for the proposed play area. Proposed by Cllr Forward, seconded by Cllr Simms and all in favour.

It was noted that it is necessary to obtain a copy of the lease and Land Registry entries to be able to demonstrate to any grant funders that this is already in place.

5. Construction and choice of equipment

It was noted that the Chair and some others on the Committee had already made arrangements to consult possible contractors to evaluate possibilities of what equipment would be most suitable, and costings. It was agreed that this should continue. Refer back to next meeting.

6 Maintenance

It was noted that the insurers will require regular checks of the condition of the equipment by qualified Health and Safety experts. This will be an ongoing cost to the Parish Council. The amount is as yet uncertain but is to be ascertained.

7 Public consultation

It was noted that the various sources of grant funding insist on ensuring wide community involvement. Eg Is the project supported by the community, does it meet community needs, how will the project make a difference, who will benefit?

Resolved that the Committee recommend to Council that at the Easter Egg Hunt on 26 March, paperwork (possibly a questionnaire) be made available for residents to sign in support, numbers of those involved in the Easer Egg Hunt to be tallied. Proposed by Cllr Shouler, seconded by Cllr Simms and all in favour.

Resolved that the Committee recommend to Council that the Committee set up a Facebook page linked to Newton Parish Council to enable contributions of views from as many as possible. Proposed by Cllr Shouler, seconded by Cllr Forward and all in favour except Cllr Dobson who abstained.

Resolved A copy of the minutes of the Committee’s meetings be published on the village notice boards. Proposed by Cllr Simms and seconded by Cllr Forward.

Resolved that the Committee recommend to Council that in the future if it is considered appropriate, consultation leaflets be printed at Parish Council expense for a drop at houses in the village. Proposed by Cllr Simms, seconded by Cllr Topping and all in favour.

The following particular points were noted:-

a) There are no community facilities in the village, no pub, no café, no shop, no village hall, no petrol station, no school, no leisure facilities, and relatively few trees.

b) A school bus has been laid on to take primary school age children from Newton to East Bridgford because crossing the A6097 is so potentially dangerous.

c) A large number of families in the middle of nowhere with nowhere to go, and no connection to the original local and very different community. Resident action is a very good place to begin - perhaps the only place. A children’s play area is an obvious first step, as it can get the whole community behind it. But older children and teenagers will need things too, and the adults also have need of places to meet and mingle. So the play area is intended to be the first of hopefully a sequence of ‘building blocks’ in the village to help it re-develop a sense of local “Community”.

8 Financing

It is believed that a similar project on Lowdham Village Hall cost about £75,000. Newton needs to obtain detailed costings of what equipment is chosen, what it costs to buy and install. But for the purposes of making calculations at this stage, it was agreed to estimate costs at £75,000.

Resolved that the Committee recommend to Council that enquiry be made to obtain written confirmation that any VAT charged on the equipment and installation is fully recoverable by the PC. Cllr Simms, seconded by Cllr Topping and all in favour.

Possible sources of grant funding

WREN FCC community action fund,

Biffa landfill community fund

Veolia landfill community fund

Nottingham supporting local communities fund

Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire (RCAN)

Notts County Council

None of these will fund 100% and all require part of the funding from alternative sources. Biffa for example requires 20% or more to be found from alternative sources. 20% of £75,000 is £15,000 and it was noted that it was not just the equipment cost and installation, but design fees, lowering of the pavement for access by push chairs/prams and any vehicles of contractors. It might also be useful to factor in installation of 2m high hedges to preserve privacy of the children, and safety, and an incidental benefit would be to reduce noise form the play area for the benefit of nearby houses.

Resolved that the Committee recommend to Council that the Council ring-fence £20,000 of its 2016/17 budget and apply it to the play area project. Proposed by Cllr Shouler, seconded by Cllr Forward and all in favour except Cllr Dobson who abstained.

Resolved that the Committee recommend to Council that there be organised in the village some fund-raising events to obtain additional cash resources and that this item be put on the agenda for the next committee meeting. Proposed by Cllr Simms, seconded by Cllr Forward and all in favour.

9 Target timescales

Recognising that there is always a possibility of some slippage, it was decided to set down some time frames as targets for achievement.

By 30 April 2016

1. Committee to have two more meetings.

2. Obtain Parish Council approval for ring-fencing a sum for the play area.

3. Open separate bank account for receipt of external dedicated funding

4. Ascertain VAT position.

5. Complete public consultations

6. Consult insurers re (a) risks during construction and (b) ongoing risk assessment

7. Obtain copy of lease and Land Registry entries.

8. Start to raise funds

By 30 July 2016

1. To file applications for grant funding. This will involve preparation of supporting evidence. Council approval will be needed.

2. To file planning application for detailed approval, if needed.

3. To prepare risk assessment.

By 30 September 2016

1. Locate agreed funding

2. If necessary, enter into a contract for stage 1 of the equipment installation until more funds are available. Preferably for the whole lot.

3. Arrange with County Highways about lowering the pavement for push chair/pram access.

By 30 November 2016 (any slippage not to be later than 21 March 2017)

1 Project delivered as complete.

Proposed by Cllr Simms, seconded by Cllr Forward and all in favour.

10. Dates of next Committee meetings at Car Colston Village Hall

Tuesdays 5th April and 26th April.

11. Date of next Parish Council Meeting at Shelford Village Hall

Thursday 24th March

12. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm

***IShouler***

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Cllr I Shouler, Chair