

FULL COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 14

PARISH COUNCIL / VILLAGE HALL AGREEMENT REGARDING THE PLAY AREAS

This item was discussed by the Finance Committee at their recent meeting.

Below is an extract from the draft minutes.

The committee recommended that the item was discussed at the Full Council meeting in November.

The Chairman of the trustees at the Horam Village Hall has been informed of this discussion.

TO NOTE THE EXPIRY DATE OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARISH COUNCIL AND HORAM VILLAGE HALL REGARDING THE SKATE PARK AND PLAY PARK / 3RD AGE EQUIPMENT

Members noted that an agreement existed between Horam Village Hall and the Parish Council regarding the play equipment /skate park/Exercise equipment located at the Constance Scott Recreation Ground. The agreement would expire in 2026. It was likely that at some point within the next five years the maintenance of these areas would need to be funded from the precept. Members noted the relationship between both parties. The council did not own the land the play equipment was on. There was concern that if the equipment became the responsibility of the village hall it would not be maintained correctly which would be detrimental to the community. Any council decision on this matter would take time as would the drawing up of a new agreement if required. The importance of giving the Village Hall sufficient notice if the play equipment would become theirs was noted. All members noted the monetary and time cost to the council regarding the maintenance of the play areas.

Members noted their disappointment at no longer being a trustee of the Village Hall Committee.

*An item would be added to the November Full Council agenda for an initial discussion on the topic. It was **AGREED** that a council decision should be made at the beginning of 2025.*

The Village Hall would be notified of the council's future discussions on this topic.

5.1. To consider upcoming costs regarding the improvement and maintenance of the above

Members noted that significant patchwork repairs were required for the play park. Initial quotes suggested that the cost would be in the region of £45,000. The council would need to use Contract Finder as per the council's financial regulations. The Clerk had not yet started work on this. The Ear Marked Reserve for the skate park and play park maintenance only held funds of £12,050.95. CIL would need to be used to cover part or all of the costs. If the £12,050.95 was depleted entirely future monthly maintenance costs would need to be funded from the precept.

The Chairman strongly recommended that the council fund this cost even if the council resolved to hand over responsibility of the equipment to the village hall.

Contract Finder would be a priority for the Clerk.