

FULL COUNCIL DECEMBER 2024 – AGENDA ITEM 13

FUTURE AGREEMENT WITH THE VILLAGE HALL FOR PLAY EQUIPMENT

The draft minutes of the November meeting state:

TO DISCUSS THE VIABILITY OF A FUTURE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARISH COUNCIL AND VILLAGE HALL REGARDING THE SKATE PARK AND PLAY PARK / 3rd AGE EQUIPMENT. EXISTING AGREEMENT EXPIRES IN 2026 – AS RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Members noted the report which had been circulated and that the existing agreement would end in February 2026. The item was discussed in detail.

The Chairman reiterated the land was owned by the Village Hall Charity, but the parish council owned the play equipment and were responsible for its maintenance using their ear marked reserve S106 monies. At some point when these funds were depleted the precept would need to fund the maintenance costs. He highlighted the strained relationship between both parties and that the parish council were no longer a trustee of the village hall charity.

*The majority of councillors were supportive of the idea of handing back the playpark, skate park and 3rd age equipment to the village hall when the existing agreement expired. Although all **AGREED** the repair work to the surface of the children's play area should be completed and all areas should be in good working order. There was hesitancy amongst some councillors regarding how well all the areas would be maintained if the parish council no longer had that responsibility. Members felt that there should be some legal redress if the village hall did not maintain the equipment to an acceptable standard.*

Members noted that the Village Hall Charity should be given good notice if that was the council's intention.

The Indemnity Agreement would need to be clarified regarding the ownership of the play equipment. The council's understanding was if the equipment was placed on village hall land, then the council owned it but if it was bolted to the ground then legally ownership could be questioned.

*It was **AGREED** the item would be added to the December Full Council agenda for resolution.*

It will now be up to Full Council to make a decision in principle.