



Chideock Parish Council

Mr George Dunn

25th February 2025

Dear George

RE: CLAPPS MEAD PLAY EQUIPMENT

Thank you for your email. Your concerns regarding the recommendations in Appendix 3 of the January Parish Council Meeting Minutes have been noted, and we will address each of your points below.

1. Removal and Replacement of the Chain Bridge

The recommendation to remove and replace the chain bridge was based on the overall condition of the equipment, particularly the deteriorating chains and supporting timbers. The chain bridge consists of a chain with openings that do not meet the recommendations of BS EN 1176 Part 1, some fixings need replacing, two of the four bracing posts require replacement due to rot, and there is evidence of rot in other timbers. Taking this into consideration, along with the fact that most parts of the structure require repair, the Council determined that full replacement would be the most practical and cost-effective long-term solution rather than ongoing patchwork repairs.

2. Removal and Replacement of the Swing Bridge/Slide (Multi Play Toddler Equipment)

While the Inspector's report identified only one aspect of the swing bridge/slide as moderate risk, it also highlighted multiple other areas requiring attention, including various fixings, timber replacements, and ongoing monitoring. The extent of potential repairs needed across multiple parts of the equipment led the Council to conclude that a full replacement would be the safest and most efficient use of time and money, rather than attempting continual repairs. Additionally, the Council is actively exploring available grants to help reduce overall spending. Before purchasing any new equipment—following receipt of quotes—the Council will seek input from the residents of Chideock to ensure their voices are heard and they are involved in the decision-making process.

3. Inspection of the In-Ground Jumper

At the last meeting, your question regarding why the In-Ground Jumper was not uncovered and reviewed was acknowledged. The Council will revisit this matter and discuss whether an inspection should be arranged. Regarding its insurability, Cllr Benjamin will update any further developments (if any).

4. Financial Considerations and Precept Increase

The Council acknowledges the need to balance responsible fiscal management with the ongoing maintenance and improvement of the Village Play Area. The decision to recommend replacing certain equipment was made with long-term safety and sustainability in mind. Regarding the Parish Precept increase, this was necessitated by rising costs and the need to maintain essential services.

5. Village Fundraising Group

We would like to clarify that the Village Fundraising Group has not been barred in any way. The only requirement set by the Council is that the group holds the necessary insurance, as recommended by our insurers. The fundraising group would be responsible for managing their own risk assessments (including obtaining relevant certification e.g. DBS for working with children). This measure is in line with best practices to ensure that all fundraising events are properly covered.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

Chideock Parish Council

www.chideockparishcouncil.com