

Agenda Item 13 – Play Areas

Jubilee Field Carousel:

A high risk issue was identified by Mid Devon District Council on their bi-monthly play areas inspections relating to a missing fixing on the carousel at Jubilee Field. The Responsive Repairs and Maintenance Contractor attended and stripped the carousel down but due to the deteriorating condition of the boards on the carousel was unable to repair the fixing. The Clerk asked Play UK, a specialist play contractor, to attend and see what they could do. They did manage to repair the fixing at a cost of £85, to make it safe, however they advised that the conditions of the boards are such that they need replacing along with some of the fixings. There is also a trap risk at the edges due to the deterioration of the boards.

The carousel was provided and fitted by Creative Play in September 2020 but they no longer provide this model, which is provided by Sutcliffe Play. The original warranty was for 2 years so it is out of warranty. The Clerk obtained a quote for materials for the repair – this is £1,554.77 to include replacement of the orange bump stops, however the contractor has confirmed that the existing bump stops can be re-used – just new fixings are required, and so the cost of the materials will be £1,263.49. Play UK can fit for a cost of £340. The total repair cost will therefore be £1,603.49 plus VAT.

For comparison purposes a new inclusive carousel would cost approx. £9,000 plus VAT to include disposal of the old carousel and fitting.

It is **recommended** that Council approve the repair of the carousel as set out above.

Pressure Washing – Mallow Court, South View and Worcester Crescent

A low risk issue was identified by the RoSPA inspector in the last inspection (October 2024) relating to moss accumulation at the above 3 play areas on some equipment and ground surfaces that requires pressure washing. The last time the play areas were pressure washed, excluding Chestnut Drive, was in June 2023 at a cost of £781.09 by the then handyman, who had to hire equipment and a water bowser. Subsequent contractors have advised that it would be better to use a specialist company due to increased costs of equipment hire and accessing water. With the next inspection due this October the Clerk has obtained quotes for each of the play areas from a local company as follows:

- Mallow Court: £251 plus VAT,
 - South View £241 plus VAT
 - Worcester Crescent: £256 plus VAT
- Total - £748 plus VAT

Whilst there is currently a hose pipe ban for domestic customers businesses are not subject to the ban although local authorities are prohibited from watering planters and floral displays. So, although technically the work could proceed, Council also has other options – it could decide that as the risk is low the work should be deferred pending the findings of the upcoming annual RoSPA inspection and/or until the hosepipe ban is lifted.

Debbie Bird, Clerk to Willand Parish Council
September 2026