

Agenda Item 16 – Jubilee Field Criminal Damage and ASB

Recommendation

It is **recommended** that the Parish Council make a formal written complaint to the Chief Constable, copying in the Police & Crime Commissioner, regarding the way in which recent incidents of criminal damage and anti-social behaviour at the Jubilee Field have been dealt with by the Police, with the final wording of the letter to be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Chair.

Criminal Damage

In June and July this year (2025) a number of incidents of criminal damage occurred in the Jubilee Field and were reported online to the Police by the Clerk. A crime number was allocated to each report. Some of the incidents were captured on CCTV and the Village Hall provided the footage to the Police where available. The reports were picked up by Police Officers based in Exeter rather than the local police station and in all cases the Officer decided that they were unable to investigate the incidents further as either there was no witness/CCTV evidence available or the CCTV available was not sufficient to identify individuals.

There are costs to the Council and hence the local taxpayer when items are damaged and repairs or replacement are required.

Details of the damage are below:

1. 07/06 – Rocker damaged in play area, broken off at ground level (Spring). Not a simple repair and would likely require a full replacement at a cost of approx. £2,500 due to its age and the likelihood of being able to source a full replacement spring. There was a charge of £30 to remove the rocker and make good the ground area. Play area is too far away to provide any useful CCTV footage. A couple of adult females were seen using the new double seesaw but it is unclear if they used the smaller rocker. These items are for the use of young children only. Due to the cost and the availability of other items in the play area the Parish Council decided not to replace the item. (Crime Ref 50250154798)
2. 10/06 – The new wire mesh laid over the pump track drainage to stop stones being picked up and thrown around (possible health and safety issue and damage to grass cutting machinery) was ripped up at two of the drainage areas. The original mesh for all areas cost £335 including fitting. The mesh had to be fully replaced over one drain due to the damage caused and repaired over the second drain at a cost of £148. CCTV shows two individuals wearing hoodies causing the damage. The Police Officer deemed that it would be very difficult to identify the culprits from the footage and that there are no suitable lines of enquiry so it was not considered proportionate to progress further. (Crime Ref 50250154798)
3. 13/06 – Bin by Pump Track came off mounting. CCTV shows that the bin just fell off and no one was near it at the time, so it is likely that it came off later on due to damage caused at some earlier point. The Village Hall were unable to find anything on CCTV but it would take too long to find this without having an idea of

when to look. The Handyman re-attached the bin when undertaking the above work so there was no extra charge. (Crime Ref 50250154798)

4. 21/06 – Pump Track safety sign pulled off and discarded. This was repaired at a cost of £30 but is in poor condition. CCTV is unclear but does appear to show someone, who is not clearly identifiable, removing the sign. (Crime ref: 50250159468)
5. 16/07 – Spraying of graffiti on the footpath. The Village Hall were unable to locate any CCTV of the incident. Cost to remove £46. Police Officer advised that without having anyone linked to the offence or a way to find them, they were not going to be able to investigate any further, but to keep reporting incidents so they can get a picture of any antisocial behaviour or issues within the area. (Crime ref: 50250182858)

Anti-Social Behaviour, Theft and assault

Although not directly impacting the Parish Council there have been some Facebook posts highlighting assault, verbal abuse, theft of a watch and general anti-social behaviour by a particular individual at the Jubilee Field. It is not known whether the incidents were reported to the Police as these need to be reported by the victims. The Parish Council, if approached, will always encourage the reporting of any crime.

Concerns

1. Lack of investigation by the Police and the message this sends to those who carry out these crimes
2. Lack of locally based Police Officer involvement or contact

It was also noted that when Mid Devon District Council requested that a Police Officer attend with them over the removal of vehicles from the site of a new development in Willand resources were found to accommodate this although the crimes committed as set out above are not to be investigated.

Proposal by Councillor Warren

September 2025