



## EGGLESCLIFFE & EAGLESCLIFFE COUNCIL

### MINUTES FROM A MEETING OF THE RECREATION COMMITTEE, COMMENCING AT 7.30pm MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER AT THE COUNCIL OFFICE

**PRESENT:** Cllrs R Richardson (Chair), T Collier, K Roebuck & Dr J Ramsay  
N Ironside – Clerk to the Council

**APOLOGIES** Cllrs & M de Launay & A Marsden

**MINUTE:**

**36/25 MINUTES OF 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025 MEETING**

Approved and signed by the Chair

**37/25 PLAY AREAS**

**a) AMBERLEY WAY PLAY AREA**

The new play equipment for the final section of Amberley Way play area is expected to be installed w/c 20<sup>th</sup> October, however on checking the Clerk has been advised this may be further into the week and will have confirmation by Thursday to enable posters to be put up around the site. Cllrs Collier has requested further information from the contractor with regards to the warranty and would like an itemised warranty for each of the 4 pieces of new equipment. The company have provided a warranty summary of the parts based on material and type of component, however he would like a thorough list for the Sky rail, double perch, ball game shute and roll-up. **Clerk to request.** The bench seats and metal picnic tables have been painted by the community pay back team during the summer.

**b) ST MARGARETS PLAY AREA**

Drainage investigation works – interim drawing received prior to 19<sup>th</sup> June council meeting saying that a piece of equipment appears to have one of it's footings cemented through a drainage run as per SBC with sketch 19.6.25. It was briefly mentioned by the Clerk 19<sup>th</sup> June Council meeting however the council felt the flooding issues are more widespread on site and just this line. Needs further discussion with SBC to find if EEC will need to pay for repair/drainage works. **Clerk to contact SBC** for further information on the drain survey and open discussions for repairs etc.

Picnic table bench 3x benches were added to the Community Payback works, Clerk to purchased dark woodstain. The team believed their works were complete so will need to re-add this to their list. **Clerk to request.**

To review the timber equipment as it has been agreed to gradual replacement due to rotting timber bases. To consider for 2026/27 precept.

**c) LEVEN CLOSE PLAY AREA**

Looking tidy at the moment.

**d) KINGMEAD**

Discussion of the safamat below the equipment on open grassed area. Cllr Ramsay said the matting below the swings will always be vulnerable due to the nature of play. Quotes had been sought during the year for fibrefall and replacing the safamat. To monitor. Picnic bench on list for Community Payback team – Clerk to ask the QEII gdns contractor for a price to sand and stain for the winter.

**Some discussion on estimated needs for precept 2026/27**, the Amberley Way project is £20K leaving £15K in the Play area improvement budget. The Play Area maintenance budget is over 50% spent but this includes the annual cost for SBC to carry out fortnightly inspections and necessary repairs. Next Recreation Committee meeting to be arranged for early November to feed into the Finance Committee budget preparation.

**38/25 TREES (CYCLICAL SURVEYS)**

Estimate received from the tree surveyor who carried out the 2024 tree survey. Options discussed for a VALID methodology (3-yearly inspections and visuals) and Threats Methodology which involves a full inventory tree condition survey with an 18 month/3 year frequency recommendation. After a brief discussion it was agreed to go with the Threats methodology to ensure an accurate tree condition snapshot of the EEC owned land and responsibility. Cllr Collier requested that sections of the Teesdale Way should be surveyed due to numerous overhanging trees over the pathway, however with this being privately owned land, the Clerk to contact the landowners to ask about their responsibilities.

The Clerk explained responsive urgent works needed in Victoria park recently and currently works needed on the boundary of Eliffs Mill allotment site to tall mature willow trees and should these works be the Allotment budget or the main tree budget that the Recreation Committee are responsible for. Agreed for it to be the main tree budget. Discussed the two quotes for the Eliffs Mill works, Clerk to go back to the current agreed arborist for further information about removal of the logs from site and if chipping is an option for the use on site will it reduce/change costs.

**Clerk/RFO recommended keeping a robust tree budget for 2026/27.**

**39/25 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

SBC have contacted all parish/town councils regarding current lighting they test / install/ remove and store. Refer minutes 22<sup>nd</sup> July pg3 with a list of Christmas lighting managed by SBC. Clerk to contact SBC for estimated replacement costs of these lights with a description to enable an amount be kept in the budget for future replacement.

**40/25 ANY OTHER RECREATION BUSINESS**

Cllr Collier raised the recent works at Orchard shops to cut back shrubs in the raised beds due to rat infestation and that the beds were looking shabby and could any planting be put in. Cllr Collier to send the Clerk photos and Clerk to contact the shops management company to ask what their plans are with these beds.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.01pm, Minutes to be presented to Council 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025 meeting.

Signed R. J. Kelly ..... Committee Chairman

Date 11/11/25.....