

Boyton Parish Council Minutes of extraordinary meeting 21 July 7.00

Purpose of Meeting: To discuss the PCC’s application for playground equipment funding (details in separate document.) SCDC request that PC indicates whether or not to support the application

Attendance	Parish Councillors: Richard Jesty (RJ), Ali Crawford (AC), Fred Stentiford (FS), Sally Wood (SW) Other attendees: Charlie Lansdowne, Gary Lowe
Apologies	Andrew Cassy, Kay Lane
Declaration of interest	Declaration of interest noted (but not signed for) Richard Jesty: member of the Hall Management Committee (doubted were expressed as to the future existence of said group) Fred Stentiford: member of Hall Management Committee, Boyton PCC, Hollesley PCC
Background	RJ gave a background to the process of the application and the content of the proposal which is to install a double cradle swing for babies and toddlers to replace the previous single cradle swing. This would be funded by SCDC Outdoor Play Space and Sports scheme (shared by Hollesley and Boyton) and Play Scheme fund held for Boyton. RJ confirmed that in a conversation last week with Ruth Hatchett, chair of Boyton PCC (and also confirmation by FS) the PCC is willing to allot space to install other play equipment too.
Points raised	<p>The following points were raised in the discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the last PC meeting the following proposal was approved: <i>“Boyton Parish Council support the application by the PCC to the SCDC Outdoor Playing Space Scheme for Sport fund to meet the needs of children and young people in the community”</i> • As public funding is being sought, councillors should consider the needs of the existing children and young people in the village as a priority as agreed. It was implicit in the proposal agreed at the last meeting, so the first call on the funds should be for older village children who have previously expressed need • The ownership and management of the hall and grounds by the PCC and the role of the PC in this situation adds to the complexity of PC decision making. Though all agree that cooperation and working to the same ends is the aim of all parties • It was acknowledged that Brian Wood had been instrumental in clearing the remnants of the old swing and his efforts appreciated by all • There is one baby in the village for whom the cradle swing will be suitable as well as villagers who have grandchildren under four. Future babies and toddlers born to the village may benefit too • A number of children and under 18s in the village took part in consultation a year and a half ago. A plan of possible siting of equipment had been drawn up by RJ and was shown to councillors. Their requests for a basketball hoop, a boat and tyres in the shape of Loch Ness monster didn’t reach fruition. No-one at the meeting could shed light on why the momentum between the parents and children of the village and the PCC had stalled • Spending over £2000 on a baby swing ahead of other children’s expressed wishes being met sends a worrying message to the children and parents • There has been a swing seat in the proposed site for many years, so its replacement seems a natural way forward. Visitors and children alike – and some adults - enjoy the swings generally. Those present acknowledged with thanks that FS put a lot of work into getting the proposal for a swing seat to this point - with nodding agreement from the PCC – and wants to move forward to its completion without delay. Funding for other equipment (professionally installed) could be sought later and the PCC will support this. • Concerns were raised that future funding was not a certainty – dependent on availability from the shared funds with Hollesley, as the whole of allocation for Boyton’s sole use would be used in the current proposal

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Summary of positions	<p>The views of members and villagers present fell broadly into two camps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support the application and get the cradle swing installed to the current timescale and pursue installation of other equipment at a later date 2. Reject the proposal only in order to delay the application by a few weeks and then to include one or two items suitable for older children as well. This renewed proposal would honour the intention and spirit of the PC resolution passed earlier this month to prioritise existing children’s needs
Outcome 1	<p>A majority agreed that the council would support the application to proceed with the cradle swing with the following proviso:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FS agreed on to suggest to Boyton PCC that additional play equipment will be installed to meet the needs of the children and young people of the village & that the PCC will provide seed funding and apply for grant funding to meet the costs of purchase and installation.
Outcome 2	<p>Response to SCDC ref Cradle Swing proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The council voted to agree to the proposal by a majority of three in favour (RJ, FS, SW) and one abstention (AC)

SignedDate.....