

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 17 May 2021

Title: Oxlease Play Area - Memorial Picnic Bench

Contact Officer: Maintenance & Environmental Services Officer - Angus Whitburn

Background

A request has been received to install a memorial picnic bench at Oxlease Play Area. The picnic bench will be in memory of Stephanie Ormonde and it is the friends and family of Stephine that have approached the Town Council for permission. They have offered to cover the cost of picnic bench and memorial plaque via fundraising.

Current Situation

Oxlease Play area has space to install one more picnic bench. This would create a nice perimeter around the play area and offer a natural protective barrier to all children using the area.

There is not a standard issue picnic bench Witney Town Council install. The picnic bench would have to be of an entirely wooden construction, so it is in keeping with the surroundings of Cogges and the play area.

The area has been vandalised once before and one of the circular benches was damaged beyond repair. Unfortunately, due to the entirely wooded construction the bench had to be removed and disposed of.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

Financial implications

As stated in the report the family intend to fundraise for the picnic bench, however the area has been vandalised once before which involved the complete removal of one round picnic benches. The family will be made aware of this risk.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and consider the request for a memorial picnic bench in memory of Stephanie Ormonde.