

Playing field working group report

PLAY AREAS

Long Lane

One piece of play equipment in fenced play area was moved to accommodate the new community hall build and the wooden climbing frame and slide was decommissioned until build is completed. The zip wire was repaired and continues to be very popular . The play / sport equipment for older children continues to be dated and skate park remains under by most skateboarders. Plans to remove the skate park and replace with a MUGA (multi use games area) is shelved as no funding was forthcoming and the Parish council focusing on completion of community hall and equipment for new hall . However replacing the skate park with a more suitable sport resource for the older children in the village remains an aim .

Carol close

This play area remains well used. The play equipment was installed more recently and shows less signs of wear and tear.

Both play areas have a weekly visual safety check . An annual ROSPA inspection is completed yearly by an independent contractor . This is due in May 2024 .

Tree/ Hedge management and verge cutting.

In the last year 3 trees have been removed due to being a risk and 1 tree removed after it fell down on football pitch .Ribbonsdale nurseries have arranged removal and disposal of trees. Ribbonsdale cut the hedges in February 2024 there was two years growth due to previous contractors being unable to complete hedge cutting . It is likely the playing working group will recommend Ribbonsdale is asked to cut verges and around park seats which used to be completed by our caretaker.

Dog issues

Dog fouling continues to be an issue on playing field football pitch and on playing field despite plenty of bins to dispose of bagged dog poo. Thank you to those dog owners who clear up after their own dogs and take spare bags to collect any dog poo they come across left by irresponsible dog owners , who for whatever reason have not cleaned up after their pooch !!

Access for vehicles

Plan to have a vehicle access onto playing field from Pettingales entrance.

Bins

South Norfolk Council continue to empty all general waste bins and dog waste bins in village.

Wildflower verges

The verges along the football pitch will be managed to allow food for pollinators and the Long Lane verge will be allowed to grow longer to encourage habitat for small Kamala and grasses and plants for pollinators. A short edge to the verge will be cut to ensure a neat edge to the longer verge as last year .

Thank you to Michael Beckett who has been an excellent grounds man and caretaker for the Parish council we wish him well as he stands down from this role .

Thank you to parish councillors Katrina Nobbs and Claudette Dean for being part of the Playing field working group .

Gill Jinkerson

Playing field working group Chairperson