

### South Leigh Playground Sub-Committee Accounts y/e 31st March, 2021

Date	Description	Income (£)	Expenditure (£)	Balance (£)
10/04/2020	2020 balance			3426.98
30/07/2020	Witney Lions	250.00		
29/09/2020	The Midlands Co-op	2000.00		
29/10/2020	Contribution to playground equipment		2251.25	
	Interest from bank	0.78		
31/03/2021	Closing balance at bank			<u>3426.51</u>

*There remains an amount of £156.60 yet to be claimed by Karen Wilson to cover the cost of safety surface glue and which is not reflected in the figures above.*

**South Leigh Playground Association**  
**(Sub-committee of South Leigh Parish Council)**  
**Annual Report 2021**

**New Equipment in 2020**

The Playground Association is grateful to have received funds from the annual South Leigh summer fayres which is how we were able to purchase equipment. Grants were also applied for.

- A grant from Witney Lions Dream scheme was claimed - £250
- The Co-op re-instated their offer of a grant in the autumn and we received £2000

It was great to be able to order a new climbing frame and monkey bars, chosen by South Leigh children for the playground. This was the first new equipment to have been installed in over 20 years. The equipment was ordered from and installed by Playdale. The safety surfacing used was 'grass lock' style. This allows grass to grow through it which will need cutting and it allows for drainage. It also doesn't need a concrete base so is a more environmentally friendly type of safety surfacing allowing for good drainage. The area underneath the equipment has become green already. Mowing around the equipment may be more difficult.

**Equipment from Playdale**

Mini Playframe & timber monkey bars: £6997.50 + VAT was installed in October 2020.

**Maintenance over the last 12 months**

The playground has continued to be cut regularly. It was closed during the first lockdown but re-opened in July 2020. Government guidelines allowed playgrounds to remain open during further lockdown periods.

Martin and Karen Wilson spent two days digging out nettles, ivy and the wire fencing from the boundary with No. 1 Lymbrook cottages after they installed a new fence but left their old one in situ which was in a dangerous state.

Grass seed has been sown in areas near the new equipment and new fence line.

I would like to thank Mark Walker for helping to remove pallets and the old Dizzy and Duo discs from the playground.

Martin and Karen spend time throughout the year maintaining the playground.

- Mowing and strimming regularly (fortnightly)
- Fortnightly keeping the perimeters tidy – cutting back brambles, nettles and putting them in our own garden waste bin; empty the waste bin.
- Annually - pressure washing the swing safety surfacing, sanding and oiling the benches to painting and maintaining old equipment.

**Next steps:**

The safety surfacing underneath the flat swings needs lifting and re-laying to reduce the gaps between tiles. We hope to get a working party together to do this work.

A new waste bin is needed; cost approximately £200

A new sign at the entrance is needed. We made the last one but it is at the end of its life.

The Springy tops need renovating or replacing; cost approximately £1600 + installation

The old mower is becoming difficult to maintain and keep going. It is likely that it will need replacing before too long; new mower cost approximately £2000

South Leigh Playground Association is a sub-committee of the Parish Council and the Council are the tenants of the site, I believe. I'm not sure whether the new tenancy agreement has been finalised and signed. Ken Brooks was dealing with this when he was helping in the role of Clerk. I (Karen Wilson) am the only active committee member. Committee members were / are Sheena Bough (now in Cornwall) and Barbara Austin. Martin and I have looked after the playground for the last 28 years but it is time to plan a handover to a new committee. I have tried to get new families with young children interested in coming on the committee over the years without success. The Parish Council may have more success in getting new committee members involved and any help would be appreciated.

Looking to the future, the Parish Council should be considering how the playground should be managed, maintained and mown. A new Parish councillor should be identified to be on the committee. Future responsibility and costs for the playground needs to be born by a new committee and the Parish Council.

I am raising this issue now so that when the precept budget is discussed for 2022, the costs can be discussed, estimated and included. Anyone who mows the playground in the future may not fund the fuel themselves. You may need to consider adding its cost to the cost of mowing other communal areas if volunteers cannot be identified to maintain and mow the playground regularly when we can no longer take on this role.

*Karen Wilson, May 2021*