

Dashwood Playpark Annual Parish Council meeting April 2025

Our enhanced Village Playpark has now been in existence for 10 years this September, 2025, and is unfortunately beginning to show her age. It is lovely to see children, both from our Village and from the surrounding area, enjoying the facilities, peace and quiet and the panoramic views. We are very fortunate to have such a beautiful Village Playpark and your Parish Council are working hard to ensure the safety and integrity of this Village asset.

Our annual Health & Safety Inspection was carried out, late 2024, and a number of issues were identified, which require attention. The prime requirement is for the safety bark to be "topped up" so that if children fall from the swings or climbing frames they will be protected to the best of our ability. Some of the fixings and tables are showing signs of rot or screws becoming lost, impacting on the safety of specific climbing items. We are also required to upgrade some swing seats and supports. Overall, we are looking at up to £9000.00 of expenditure.

This year has identified to be the most expensive in the upgrading of the Playpark and your Parish Council are seeking methods of funding available that will not necessitate an increase in Precept spending. We will keep you informed on our success with securing funding.

We have currently contained the attack from Moles reported in our previous report and hopefully, have seen the end of these little devils, however, as Rural folk we appreciate this is difficult to promise.

We still suspect that in the next couple of years we will need to replace the main wooden supports of the climbing frames, due to damp. This will not be a cheap option but if we wish to retain this valuable asset then we will need the support of the village in fund raising for this eventuality.

Those who walk the dog or use the playpark with their family will see that the double yellow lines to deter parking, mentioned in our previous report, are now in existence. A recent inspection of the Playpark has highlighted that the double yellow lines and the road itself are beginning to fade or crumble and require attention from Highways. We have notified WNC of this situation.

We are still receiving reports of the family dog joining the kids in the Playpark, kids climbing on top of the equipment and even Adults enjoying the facilities. These activities, create danger to the individuals and damage

to the equipment that you pay for. Dogs are prohibited from the park by means of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO). Please help your Parish Council and report any anti-social action of this kind.

Farthinghoe Parish Council