

**TARBAT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**Knockshortie Playpark**

**Record note of informal meeting held on Tuesday January 30, 2018**  
**at 3 Gordon Brae, at 9:30am.**

**Present:** Hamish Mackenzie (Vice Chairman), Jackie Thornhill (Secretary) Helen Fleming,

**Apologies:** Martin Dane (Chairman), Jacqui Monro

**In attendance:** Councillor Derek Loudon, Councillor Fiona Robertson, John Mackay (Highland Council), Ingrid Jamieson (Highland Council)

This meeting was arranged to discuss the removal of Kncokshortie Playpark equipment without any consultation between the TCC and Highland Council.

Mr Mackay could only sincerely apologise for the lack of communication to the Tarbat Community council about the decision to remove the playpark equipment, but he assured us that the community council would be consulted in future and that this is not a closure of the swing park. The decision was solely made on some annual inspections that took place during August 2018 on over 400 playparks across the Highland area. Our playpark had many signs of structural damage and was coming if not beyond its average 15-year life span, therefore for health and safety concerns 4 pieces of equipment had to be removed and the climbing frame has to be monitored as signs of damage have been noted. Unfortunately, due to upcoming budgets constraints there is currently no budget allocated to replace this equipment. A piece of equipment that was in storage (springy rabbit) was installed on Monday Jan 29, 2018.

Discussion then took place on how TCC might be able raise or access funds to help with the replacement of new equipment. Cllr Robertson advised that we were in the area eligible to receive grants from the Beatrice Partnership Fund run by SSE. The next closing date for applications (31st January) was impractical, but there would be a further date later in the year. SSE would require some matched funding. The concern was then raised as to who would be responsible for regular inspections and maintenance of the grounds plus insurance liability as this would be very costly to the TCC if we had to endure these costs. It was advised by HC that if we purchase equipment we could get the installation along with inspections packages included with warranty. They would further consult with more information about whether the HC would continue to assume the insurance liability of the playpark.

Ingrid Jamieson agreed to forward on a list of approved suppliers for purchasing playpark equipment. This has been done since the meeting.

The TCC members asked the HC about the ownership of the land that the playpark occupies and about the original planning permission agreement that was made with the property developer. Mr John Mackay agreed to forward copies of the title deeds and of the agreement with Mickey Austin and will update TCC in a couple of weeks.

Meeting was closed at 10:35am.