

MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

District of South Cambridgeshire

Maintenance Committee Meeting 18 February 2021

Item: MA102/20c) Correspondence re Clear Crescent

Good afternoon

Thank you for your email last week – my apologies for the delay in getting back to you.

I am very sorry to read that your son fell and hit his head at Clear Crescent play area. The mound with the slide was designed and installed by Wicksteed as part of the play park upgrade a few years ago. Both of our play parks are inspected annually by a qualified RoSPA inspector to ensure that equipment is in good condition, safe and fit for purpose. I am contacting our RoSPA inspector to seek his views with regard to your concerns and I would be very grateful if you could bear with me for a response.

Many thanks

Claire Littlewood

Parish Clerk

From:

Sent: 04 February 2021 20:01

To: Parish Clerk <parishclerk@melbournpc.co.uk>

Subject: Clear crescent park

Hello

I am emailing about the park in clear crescent. I have seen parish staff maintaining equipment in the park so I am presuming it falls under your remit?

If so, please could I put a strong argument forward for removing the large rocks/ stones at the bottom of the slide on the hill? My three year old son slipped backwards yesterday and fell directly onto one of the rocks and hit his head. Luckily for him he just sustained a large bump on the back of his head and a shock. Had he fallen frontward on his face or from much higher up it could have been much worse. I cannot really think why anyone thought putting large rocks at the bottom of a hill in a children's park was a good idea? The hill is always very muddy and slippery in winter and I'm sure my child cannot be the first child to have hurt themselves. Many other parents have commented that they are a health and safety hazard.

If it's within the council's remit to remove them I really strongly would ask it is done. Watching my child slip and fall backward onto a large stone with his head is not something I would like to go through again or any other parent.

Thankyou for your time, if there is anyone else I need to contact about this matter please let me know.

Kind regards

MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

District of South Cambridgeshire

From: info@rospaplaysafety.co.uk [mailto:info@rospaplaysafety.co.uk]

Sent: 10 February 2021 17:16

To: Assistant Clerk <assistantclerk@melbournpc.co.uk>

Subject: Re: Enquiry - Clear Crescent Play Area, Melbourn

Thank you for your enquiry.

Boulders are a natural part of the environment, upon which children are free to play. When installed in a playground they will be assessed against the British Standard EN 1176-1:2017, which concerns safety aspect such as protection against falling, entrapment, collision and poor quality of materials.

Against all these criteria these boulders pass the standard and are tolerably low risk. Risk is an inherent part of play and children have the desire to engage with exciting, stimulating and challenging play in environments where the risk is managed properly. This is the case in this instance.

Kind regards

RoSPA Team

RoSPA Playsafety Ltd
