

Dalefoot  
Crosby Ravensworth  
Penrith  
CA10 3HY  
23/11/2021

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Dear Councillors

We are writing on behalf of the play area renovation group.

The minutes of the PC meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> April read.

A local group was looking to refurbish/update the parish play area in Crosby Ravensworth. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the owner to seek permission to extend the lease. The council was asked if it would act as accountable body for the receipt and payment of funds to replace playground equipment, it was AGREED that the group would research their proposals further and present them to the Parish council for approval at a future meeting.

As a group we are nearing the end of that research, as we await the last of three quotes for new equipment.

We consulted with the community at a recent coffee morning, 100% of the questionnaires returned agree the play area needs renovation. Historical comments are noted from the "now expired" 2009 community plan, regarding the play area requiring a wider age range of equipment.

One of the first obstacles we encountered, the criteria for the majority of grant funders is the application needs to be submitted from a constituted group, but that group cannot apply for VAT. Our research has taken us full circle, eight months on we repeat our request of April 12<sup>th</sup> by asking the Parish council to act as the accountable body for the receipt and payment of funds for the playground equipment.

The group have been advised to form a Friends of the play area, rather than becoming a constituted group with all the legal responsibility that a constituted group carries, if the Parish council are agreeable to be the accountable body, the group need clarification that they can apply for play area grants on behalf of the Parish council..

The group of committed volunteers are prepared to fundraise within the community and see the play area as a parish asset, somewhere safe where Mums can meet and the children can exercise in the fresh air and enjoy themselves..

A further request is, please would the parish council consider committing £2,000 of grant funding over an extended period to renovate the play area,? This commitment would enable the group to apply for the upper level of £10,000 to Eden district councils community fund.

The deadline for applications for the community fund is 7<sup>th</sup> of January 2022, the finer details of the grant applications can be added later, when we receive all the quotes and choose the equipment.