



Mrs J Nolan
Clerk to the Council

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18th May 2024

Sent via email to ackworthparishcouncil@btinternet.com

Dear _____;

Freedom of Information Request

I write in response to your Freedom of Information request dated 16th March 2024, as per the below questions which I have provided the information held on record.

As advised on the 22nd March 2024, as the information requested related to Human Health and Safety, Ackworth Parish Council have the ability to extend the response from 20 to 40 working days which we have on this occasion. Further to this, it was also advised that as part of the FOI Policy, under section 5, it states '*if it will take more than 18 hours the Council can refuse a request for further work*'. I can confirm that I have spent the full 18 hours assigned.

a) [Can you confirm first that WMDC own the shelter](#)

I can only confirm that Ackworth Parish Council are not the legal owner of the shelter as cannot comment on behalf of WMDC.

b) [After raising issues re its safety and the questionable Safety report that did not include inspection of missing or loose bolts The chair tried to defend the report However during the full meeting Councillor Massy stated he has inspected the shelter and is also a qualified safety officer and stated that the shelter is unsafe In light of this information what action has been taken by the Parish?](#)

Since the Independent Playground Inspection completed in December 2023, the Shelter condition has deteriorated. This deterioration was reported to WMDC and West Yorkshire Police due to suspected vandalism on Sunday 24th March 2024. Since the submission of this FOI request, I can confirm that WMDC made the decision to remove the Shelter and this has since been facilitated.

i) [Can I have a copy of the Safety Report councillor Roberts referred to](#)

Please see Appendix 1 for report section.

c) Councillor Roberts also stated that the parish had sent their own personnel down to the shelter to inspect Did this person submit a written report or Verbal report if so, can I have a copy and what conclusion did they make re the state of the Bolts or lack of them and what qualifications if any do they have to carry out safety inspection

Please see appendix 2. The staff team have an inspection sheet and complete visual inspections only, concerns are reported verbally to the Clerk which are acted on accordingly.

There is no requirement for our caretaking staff team to hold qualifications in health and safety as official inspections are outsourced to a professionally qualified company.

d) Have the Parish subsequently contacted WMDC re the Shelter verbally or written if so what and when has been said or written re the Shelter

Yes, as per the answer to question b we reported concerns over deterioration in the condition of the shelter on Sunday 24th March 2024 in which since the submission of this FOI request, I can confirm that WMDC made the decision to remove the Shelter, and this has since been facilitated.

e) It was also revealed that the Parish has spent £2305 on shelter Has the Parish attempted to recoup all or any of this Money from WDMC? If not why not as WMDC own the shelter

i) Has the Parish spent any other money on this shelter that they have not re couped from WMDC if so how much?

e) In relation to the £2305.99 authorised refurbishment cost of this village amenity, this was reviewed and approved during the July 2022 meeting by the following Councillors in attendance Cllrs M Roberts, S Balfour, J Bell, T Hames, T Hollyhead, G Marshall, S Parker and S Richmond. There is no information held on record in relation to recouping any costs. Please see link to minutes

<https://www.ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/ UserFiles/Files/ Minutes/148140-220718 PC Meeting Minutes DRAFT final.pdf>

ei) After reviewing historic paperwork of minutes, any information held on record of further expenditure or recouped monies spent are unable to be retrieved within the allotted 18 hours assigned to this Freedom of Information request due to volume of minute meetings to review since the Youth Shelters original installation.

f) It was revealed that Ackworth Parish commissioned the removal of the panels and part of the seating from the Shelter Did the Parish contact

i) The manufacture of the shelter to enquire if this was safe thing to do as this weakened the integral structure of the shelter If so, is there written confirmation?

ii) If the Parish did not contact the manufacture re removal of integral parts of the structure, will they be doing do?

iii) Did the Parish contact WMDC re the work and did WMDC state it was OK to proceed (Noting in WMDC's proposed lease they wanted a fortnights notice of any work on the shelter)

Ackworth Parish Council did not remove the panels.

g) It was also discovered that WMDC are responsible weekly inspections and their councils Playground team for the annual inspections Has WMDC sent you copies of these? If so can I have a weekly report from February 2024 and a copy of the last annual report

Ackworth Parish Council have not received copies of reports from WMDC.

h) If WMDC are paying for a weekly report why has the Parish commissioned a report ? Or is there only one report? and is this paid for by WMDC or the Parish

Ackworth Parish Council annually appoint an Independent Playground Inspector to inspect several items of Playground equipment across Ackworth, the Youth Shelter has historically previously been included as part of that report. Ackworth Parish Council do not pay for any sole inspections of the Youth Shelter. Ackworth Parish Council cannot make comment on WMDC internal process or expenditure.

i) And lastly the same company that passed the shelter I believe has passed the swings at the Carr Bridge that also has loose fittings using the same criteria as the youth shelter As you are now aware that Missing and loose bolts do not form part of their report is the Parish going to take immediate attention to ensure the swings are safe

Due to the suspected vandalism on Sunday 24th March 2024, Ackworth Parish Council have instructed a reinspection of playground equipment which is currently in progress.

This freedom of information requested has now been closed.

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner by phone: 0303 123 1113 or website <https://ico.org.uk/>

There is no charge for making this request.

Yours Sincerely



Jemma Nolan
Clerk to the Council

Appendix 1 – Youth Shelter Report Section – Independent Playground Inspection Report Dec23

1. Lightmain Teen Shelter

Condition: No defects were found

Surfacing: Grass


Surface Condition: Worn

Low Risk: 6



Condition deterioration since inspection
Report no longer valid for this item


Appendix 2 – Internal Inspection Sheet - Ackworth Parish Council Feb – Apr 2024



Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)
Weekly inspection sheet

ITEM											
Basket	/	/	/	/	/	/		/	/	/	
Fencing	/	/	/	/	/	/		/	/	/	
Gates	/	/	/	/	/	/		/	/	/	
Litter	/	/	/	/	/	/		/	/	/	
Markings	/	/	/	/	/	/		/	/	/	
Posts	/	/	/	/	/	/		/	/	/	
Signs	/	/	/	/	/	/		/	/	/	
Youth Shelter	/	/		*	/	/	CLOSED, UNSTABLE **	UNSTABLE	UNSTABLE	UNSTABLE	
Other	/	/	mm		/	/					
Date & inspectors signature to confirm site safety inspection completed in full compliance with requirements	2 RE 74	in need of paint. 24.2.24 DS	3/3/24	10/3/24	16.5.24	23.7.24	24/3/24	31.3.24	13.6.24	20/6.	

Notes

* LOOSE BOLTS/MISSING BOLT. STILL SOLID 

** CLOSED. TAPED OFF. UNSTABLE STRUCTURE 