

Playground Report for December 2021.

The equipment and playground were inspected on 3rd January 2022 and the general appearance is reasonable although the grass is a little long. All the equipment is aged but safe..

The bench outside the playground has a broken lath that needs replacing.

There are some actions, none of which is classed as major as a result of the ROSPA inspection and report. The main one being one of the gates (North one) needed the return spring repaired which I did but someone has been monkeying with it and it needs readjusting again. There are some bolt head covers that need replacing.

The south gate was not satisfactory. The slam gap is now non-existent. A major resetting of the gate post is needed. Not a five-minute job.... Still to be dealt with eventually.

One of the uprights in the fence (SW corner) has been kicked out again. I have removed the pieces and will try to replace.

The safety surface is still a problem, although not a major issue to be dealt with immediately.

Other than these items identified by ROSPA I am listing the following.

A black box has been added for additional equipment (sports equipment).

One of the half-round steps on the infant climbing frame and one on the junior climbing frame area showing signs of splitting due to age or rot and will need replacement later this year. The picnic table in the middle of the playground still has two bolts that could do with tightening on one of the benches (not urgent and a significant job as the bolts have seized).

As to the rest of the equipment: -

The spinner, bouncing horse and Infant climbing frame are all in sound condition

The Junior climbing frame, swings and bouncer (see note above) are all in sound condition, although all the wood is showing signs of age, and the beginnings of rot near ground level where the strimmer has eroded the wood of both swing frames which needs monitoring.

The significant general problem is the safety surfacing as this is shrinking away from the wooden edging to the surfacing and this still needs repair.

Over the other side of the field, the Picnic area looks reasonable having mowed it recently and then I cleared nettles around the area. The mud kitchen equipment was topped up again by Janice. The play-shop has had to be removed as it has been vandalised beyond repair.

The mower needs maintenance over the winter and this will result in an expenditure of £200 or so for resharpening and oil change etc.

The gateway from the car park needs at least one mat, or maybe two as it is very muddy. These are 1m by 1.5 m and would be £43 for two mats.

We could order these for the footpath in North Lane as well (11metres so 8 mats -- £160)

Playground Report for December 2021.

I have done battle with the moles getting the one that came out of the wood but there is a persistent one near the mower shed....

The hedge along the frontage of the playing field really needs a trim and unless we decide on asking for volunteers then Mike Moss of the Kirtlington estate has given a budget of £150 for flail trimming the hedge. Not pretty but effective.

We need to think of clearing the spinney. Last year it got well out of control. Again we could appeal for volunteers.

The fencing needs doing. We need to remove the old and replace. This will be expensive if we do not have volunteer labour, but we need people who know what they are doing. Discuss.

The "unofficial" footpath along the back of the Church Close housing might affect this as we need a proper gate and way into the field. What are we going to do about this footpath?

The pitch has been marked out for the present start of season for football training.

Robin Stafford Allen. Dec 2021.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Grassmats Ltd website. The page is titled "GOLF PATHWAY MATS" and features a large image of a grass mat roll. The price is listed as "From: £21.60 inc VAT". Below the price, there is a section for "Add Recommended fixings:" with a dropdown menu showing "Including pegs and ties - £1.50". The total price is displayed as "Total Price: £23.10 inc VAT". There is a quantity selector set to "1" and an "Add to cart" button. On the right side, there are three key features: "TOUGH AND READY Built to last.", "DEDICATED SUPPORT Aftersales & support", and "WARRANTY INCLUDED As standard.". Below these are "SIMILAR PRODUCTS" including "Rubber Grassmat Roll - 1m x 7.5m £180.00 inc VAT", "Heavy Duty Grass Protection Mesh From: £168.00 inc VAT", and "Metal U-Pins (Bag of 50) £24.00 inc VAT". At the bottom right, there is a green banner that says "NEED ADVICE?" and "We'll call you back". The browser's address bar shows "grassmats.co.uk/product/golf-pathway-mats/". The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the date as 03/01/2022 and the time as 12:59.