EASTON ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**17th November 2016**

**Schools Liaison and Recreation Ground Portfolio Report**

**Play Area**

A final push by a group of hardworking volunteers at the beginning of the month saw the completion of work on the children's' play. I have yet to refurbish and return the bench but the village should now have a safe and attractive play area which should require only minor maintenance and an occasional top up of the wood chippings over the next five years or so. At that point a decision on its longer term future will be required.

**Recreation Ground**

Following concerns expressed by the School, its use of the recreation ground

has been subject of a meeting with the Business Manager at St John's and a

renegotiation of arrangements. In order of priority the school's concerns were:

* a reaction to barbed comments by some in the village that the school was not making good use of the facilities provided by the Parish Council
* a shortage of staff to supervise children's safe movement up and down the village street
* limited funds

The school did not wish to terminate the Agreement and hopes that the current shortfall in staff is temporary. They wish to retain the right to use the recreation ground and are prepared to continue payment at a reduced level. Use of the woodland area is highly prized. To that end we agreed a reduction from the current £1,000 to £800 per annum with the first £200 payable on 1 December.

More generally, vehicle damage to the recreation ground is a cause for concern. Despite the best intentions of those involved, any vehicle driving over rain soaked grass will leave ruts which are not easily removed. Unless deterioration of the surface is acceptable, closer control of vehicle parking by those using the village hall is essential. I believe that this responsibility should rest with the Village hall committee as part of the hiring arrangements for the Hall.

Colin Sibun

15th November 2016