

Merlin Skate Park Works

1. Background

This item was considered at the August Community Matters meeting but deferred as full details of the works proposed and the history of the project were not available.

Following agreement of a new 15-year lease with NSC we are now able to repair and extend the Merlin Park Skate Park. There have been several complaints over the state of the surface and resurfacing is now urgent.

2. History

The refurbishment project was started by the previous council and a resurfacing proposal for £4,500 was presented to the September 2019 committee meeting (RW 1979 – extract attached). This was deferred pending agreement of the 2020-21 budget. The 2020-21 budget, approved in January 2020, includes £5,000 earmarked to extend the current ramps.

Accordingly, no work or expenditure has been specifically approved although it is clearly envisaged that £5,000 would be spent to repair and extend the park.

3. Proposed Ground Works

It is now proposed to proceed with the envisaged works at a cost of £5,000 (excl VAT) using concrete block edging to match the existing boundary. The works as per the plan below being to:

- a. Resurface the existing area
- b. Create a new tarmac area for new equipment
- c. Move the entrance gate for DDA and relocate the bin
- d. Install foundation pads for the new equipment (this cost to be met by NSC)

Merlin Park, proposed new layout.



4. New ramp equipment

The above work does not include the cost of new ramps to be installed in the new tarmac area. This is being discussed with Skate or Die and the additional equipment cost is not expected to exceed £3,500 the cost of which will be met out of CIL funds available to the Council. A further proposal will be made to the committee to install the ramps once quotes are obtained.

5. Approval sought

To proceed with the repair and resurfacing works at a cost not to exceed £5,000 (excl VAT). The work to be undertaken as soon as possible by a ground works contractor approved and used by NSC.

A further approval will be sought for the cost of installing new skate ramps once costs are finalised. This work will be undertaken by a different skate park specialist contractor.

Extract of September 2019 consideration – RW 1979

RW.1979 MERLIN PARK to discuss and agree equipment/lease of land from North Somerset Council

Details of the agreement put forward by North Somerset Council are as follows:

- 9 year term
- Rent of £1 pa if demanded
- Extent of leased land to be the same as the previous lease
- Tenant to make a contribution of £400 toward North Somerset Council's legal and property management fees
- Lease to be contracted out of Sections 24 to 28 of the Landlord & Tenant Act 1954 as was the previous lease
- All other terms and condition to be as in the previous lease

Councillor Aldridge recommended that the new lease be created covering the existing skate park area, and maybe extend the area of the skate park later.

Councillor Goddard queried why Portishead were paying £400 towards North Somerset Council's legal fees.

Councillor Aldridge agreed to ask Martin O'Neill (Property Estates & Regeneration Manager for North Somerset Council) for clarification to determine whether the money is for property management or legal fees, and if this includes PTC legal fees.

A quote for upgrading the Merlin Park skate facility was discussed. This work covered the following:

- Make good the uneven surfaces
- Re-locate the entry barriers
- Relocate the waste bin
- Re-tarmac the area

As the cost was £4,500, it was agreed that approval was needed from the full Town Council. However, Councillor Aldridge proposed that the work should be delayed until next year when there would hopefully be more money available. It was accepted that the quote may be a bit higher next year. Councillor Gardner proposed that this should be part of next year's budget discussions. This was seconded and approved unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION that : The quotation for £4,500 to upgrade the Merlin Park Skate park be included in the agenda at the Council meeting to discuss next year's budget, on the understanding that any work would be delayed until the next financial year.