



**Minutes of the Extra-ordinary Meeting of Great Notley Parish Council
Held online on Monday 1 March 2021**

Meeting commenced at 7.34pm

Present: Councillors Griffin (Chair) Butland, Crawford, Hagger, Pritchard, Sheppard and the Clerk

No members of the public were present

21/21: Apologies

Received from Councillors Ricci and Cunningham

21/22: Declarations of Interest

None

21/23: Public Question Time

No members of the public were present

21/24: To consider the re-opening of the Levens Way play area with reference to the risk assessment

It was noted that the play area had remained open since July 2020 following the consideration of a risk assessment with signage in place advising of the terms of use including social distancing. In January the rate of infection was 1,600 per 100,000 people so extremely high with a new highly contagious variant. It had been witnessed by Councillors and others that during January there was no social distancing in the play area with both children and parents crowding into the area which is quite a restricted area. The decision was made that as the measures were being ignored and for reasons of safety to close the play area. There has been some criticism of that decision by some residents. It was noted that the rate of infection now is far lower at just under 200 per 100,000 and that the Government is seeing fit to relax restrictions gradually as from 8th March 2021. After discussion and noting Government criteria Councillor Crawford proposed that he will arrange to inspect the Levens Way Play area on 2 March 2021. If there are no issues with the equipment the area will be opened forthwith subject to the terms of use on the signage and in particular social distancing. This was seconded by Councillor Pritchard and agreed by all those present.

Once the area is open the Clerk will make postings on Facebook and the Parish Council website to remind everyone about the continued need to socially

distance and that adults should not use the area as a social area. She will also liaise with the schools on the terms of use.

Meeting concluded at 7.55pm