**PAPERS 4 and 5**

**PAPER 4 Play Area Report, March 2020**

all the points raised in last year’s ROSPA report were attended to not long after the report was forwarded to the parish council, with the exception of an issue with the metal gateway into the area, which was presenting a finger-crush hazard.

This latter matter has now been rectified, after I fabricated a modification to the gate catch, and made adjustments to the hinges in order to create the necessary clearance between gate and gatepost.

Whilst at the play the area, today 12th of March, to check all was okay, I was lucky enough to encounter the ROSPA inspector visiting the site. He verbally reported to me that ‘everything is looking fine, no issues’, and whilst this was not a formal statement it would seem to bode well.

Pete

myself and mark t intend a quick walk around of the village over the weekend, but probably won't encounter anything that will need to be added to the this:

**PAPER 5 Tree wardens report**

Ash dieback will be the major issue this coming year.

The garden of 50 High Street had a large portion of an infected ash tree removed towards the end of last year, whilst in February this year a large ash tree with ash dieback, on the old railway embankment in the garden of 84 High Street, had to removed.

It is the case that once an ash tree has become badly affected, then the branches are not safe to climb amongst, as they become in effect dead wood, making it very problematic to take a tall tree down from the higher branches downwards – many trees have buildings around so cannot simply be felled and allowed to fall at full length.

Ash dieback is much more easily identified when the tree is in leaf. It is also to be recognised that not everyone knows their ‘*fraxinus excelsior’* (the ash) from e.g. their ‘*fagus sylvatica’* (the beech) etc.

The tree wardens consider that the best option to raise public awareness of the problem will be to place an article, with pictures and advice, in the May issue of the Ide Times, and will look to accomplish this.