**Ide Parish Council**

**Covid-19 Pandemic: Re-opening the Children's Play Area**

**Recommendations of subgroup to full Council**

1. The Chair called a meeting on 8 July by Skype to discuss if, why, when and how we might re-open the Play Area. For details see minutes circulated to councillors, and posted on website.

2. In the light of a risk assessment, and an equipment and safety check performed on 5 July, and repairs to the gate and xylophone being made subsequently; and having cleaned the equipment and cut the grass and hedges; having consulted government and industry guidance documents; having liaised with Ide School; and obtained the consent of our insurance company, the sub-group makes the following recommendations and invites the Council to discuss them with a view to immediate adoption.

2.1 That the Play Area be re-opened on 16 July 2020 by removing the padlock and wire and leaving the gate unlocked.

2.2 Why? To allow children under 7 years old to get out , start socialising and exercising again for their mental, emotional and physical wellbeing.

2.3 To adopt the pragmatic policy proposed by the Association of Play Industries with signage using the Weymouth TC exemplar.

The signage will advise:

About the risks of Covid-19 outside; that parents allow their children to use the equipment at their own choice and risk, while all practical measures have been taken. And will include advice on the points below.

2.4 We will limit access to children under 7 years old and supervising adults

2.5 Limit numbers to maximum two households at a time. If busy please wait outside or come back at another time.

2.6 1 adult family member to accompany 1 child or siblings

2.7 Please retain 1 metre distance from other users

2.8 We will provide hand sanitizer gel at the entrance and encourage its use on entry and exit. Ask to wash hands when get home.

2.9 Try not to touch face when using equipment

2.10 No eating food or drinking liquids within play area

2.11 No bins: please take all litter home .

2.12 We will run a rota system for a councillor to visit the site every day to check for safety, sanitizer, hazards, litter and social distancing (but avoiding engagement or confrontation). The Council retains the option to close the Play Area again during the Covid-19 emergency period if its advice is not being followed.

2.13 Signage to request that if a user develops symptoms of Covid-19 or tests positive within two weeks of using the play area, they notify a member of the IPC so that we can take measures to close for a short time (using public health guidance).

2.14 The subgroup will re-convene 3 weeks after opening to review these measures.

NCAB 9 July 2020