

WHPC Meeting: 1st September 2026

Agenda Item: 26/229

Title: Accident in Playpark

1. Purpose:

To notify the Parish Council of the actions taken following an accident to a child in the playpark and the decide whether to close the accident investigation.

2. Background:

A four year old child fell from the bridge element of the multiplay equipment and fractured his elbow. His parents wrote to the council about the accident questioning the safety of the equipment and requested that additional safety measures be considered to prevent a recurrence of the accident.

3. Action Taken By WHPC:

On being informed of the accident WHPC immediately blocked off access to the bridge element of the multiplay equipment with "hazard" tape to prevent use of the bridge whilst the matter was being investigated. A record was made in the accident book. The child's parents were informed of the actions being taken by the Parish Council.

An investigation of the bridge showed that there was no evident defect that could have contributed to the accident. The bridge was kept out of service pending further investigation.

The council took advice and asked the EDDC Playpark Inspector to review the equipment and make sure it was safe. EDDC confirmed that the immediate action to close the bridge was appropriate but after consideration of the event they concluded that the equipment is safe and there were no further actions needed. They considered that the equipment could be returned to normal use.

The council also informed RhinoPlay the equipment manufacturer and sought advice about further safety measures. RhinoPlay confirmed that the equipment complies with the National Standard and is safe for normal use as long as no modifications had been made.

The council decided to arrange for a ROSPA inspection to advise whether any further action was required to the bridge on the multiplay equipment before returning it to service. The annual ROSPA inspection was brought forward to July 26th and their report was received by the Council two weeks later. The multiplay equipment was graded as low risk with no work needed on the bridge.

Throughout the investigation the parents were kept informed of the action being taken by WHPC.

A letter from the ROSPA Head of Play Safety confirmed that the bridge and the multiplay equipment is compliant with standards and presents a tolerably low risk to users. He further stated:

"Falls are an inevitable part of children's play. This unit has been designed to give children a sense of adventure when crossing the bridge and the risk cannot reasonably be removed without also removing the play value of the unit."

A further letter was sent to the parents of the child quoting the ROSPA report findings. They were happy with the conclusions and thanked the council for our thorough investigation.

The Playpark Working Group recommends that WHPC now close this investigation.

4. For Consideration and Decision:

The Council is invited to note the report and to consider whether the investigation can now be closed.

Play Park Working Group, 24th August 2026