

Parton play area

Summary of findings

At the request of Parton Parish Council, Callum Scott (Maintenance Technician) and John Wright (Assistant Ranger) carried out an inspection of the village play area on Monday 21st July 2025. Members of the Parton Parish Council were also in attendance.

A number of faults of varying severity were recorded. As a result CS recommended that the play area should be closed until repairs had been carried out.

The following defects were noted:

1. Play area gates not closing properly in need of adjustment. Low Risk.
2. Wood chip safety surfacing was extremely low and compacted. In need of replenishment with the correct grade of wood chip to required depth 300mm to comply with requirement of BS EN 1176.
3. Multi-play climbing frame
 - broken platform with decaying timber protruding screws and spikes.
 - climbing net chain links various ones are snapped, and others are severely worn.
 - spinning pole is broken and not attached. Could be easily lifted out of its housing. The bearing was broken also and there is a missing component.
4. Toddler multi-play unit
 - severely corroded edges on various parts that are sharp and exposed.
5. Play ship
 - the springs and struts under the body are extremely rusted with broken struts that have corroded and broken off leaving sharp edges and missing components.
6. Rocking Mobalis
 - the rubber safety guard is missing, exposing moving joints that could cause serious injury.
 - the bolts that hold the unit together are missing /snapped off.
7. Swings
 - slight wear on the swing chain links and shackles.
 - some corrosion on the swing frames and shackles.

In view of the defects and associated risks, it was agreed that the best course of action was to close play area. The gates were secured with lock and chain and notices were attached to inform the public that the play area is closed until repairs have been completed. As an added precaution, individual play items were also taped off.