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**Report To:** Finance & Staffing Committee      **Date:** 24 February 2025

**Contact Officer:** Paula Harrison

**Subject:** Play Leases

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## 1. Play Leases

- 1.1 West Swindon Parish Council has attempted to complete leases on play areas since 2018. Due to changes in staff within Swindon Borough Council legal team, work has repeatedly started and paused during this time.
- 1.2 Following recent assurances from Swindon Borough Council, the Parish Council solicitor at Bevirs has renewed contact with Swindon Borough Council over matters outstanding.

### ***Matters Outstanding***

- 1.3 It should be noted as a reminder that Eastleaze play area is exempt from discussions as it is being retained by Swindon Borough Council for potential redevelopment options. Bloomsbury play area is also exempt as there is no record of ownership by Swindon Borough Council and is likely in the ownership of the then developer.
- 1.4 The Parish Council noticed that during the lengthy period of negotiations, Swindon Borough Council extended plans for some play areas to include neighbouring tree lines. These have now been returned to the original outlines.
- 1.5 The Parish Council's solicitor is in negotiations with Swindon Borough Council to pay for an indemnity policy where the original deed terms cannot be located. This is aimed to protect the Parish Council in an instance where another party seeks to access the play area site with potential damage or removal to the site.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That this Committee notes the progress to date and proceeds to the conclusion of the lease agreements.