The Council are still receiving requests to confirm the issues surrounding the play park scheme in 2009 and what drainage was implemented. The following report should clarify the situation:

- A drainage plan was commissioned, following the Feasibility Study carried out in 2007, of which the council have a copy.  
  Appendix 1
- The specification that went out to tender for the play park included a section for drainage which stated that the drainage plan by Patrick Parsons was to be used. It however, went on to clarify that this plan was to connect into the highway drainage and that consultation was still in progress. Appendix 2
- Tenders were received on 21st April 2009 with the price from T Atkinson at £174,700. Appendix 3
- Evidence was found to show that Northumbrian Water would not allow the water to connect to the drains, which at the time were theirs and not NCC. This is further backed up by a conversation between Mrs Saunders and Northumbrian Water last year and by a letter from BT Bell who state the same. BT Bell go on to say that if the connection cannot be made there is no alternative means of disposal. Appendix 4
- A subsequent letter was received by BT Bell to suggest, as the run off water could not be connected, that an alternative method would be to terrace the site and create smaller wet areas higher up. However, there would be times of flooding. Appendix 5
- 24th April 2009– there was a substantial revision to the tender quotes which brought T Atkinson’s quote to £102,000, along with reductions in the other contractors. This tender was then accepted at the Council meeting on 11th May 2009, Min Ref: 118/09. Appendix 6
- The invoice for T Atkinson came in at £98,432.00 with the drainage costs allocated at £11,300. This cost is not comparable to the scheme of drainage shown on the drainage plan but is more likely to be for the alternative suggestion of terracing. Consultation with Sam Talbot, Open Spaces Officer with NCC backs up this information. Appendix 7

The original scheme was implemented in good faith on the best advice available and with the intention of putting the play park in place. 
The council is not paying twice for a drainage scheme; the contractor provided what was asked for and was not paid for something he did not do. It was thought that the new scheme would not greatly increase the surface water run off. The inability to connect to the sewers was a major cause of the increased run off, but it should be emphasized, that the project was to provide a play park; the provision of drainage was incidental to that.

The appendices are available for viewing, please contact the clerk.