

Thank you for your email (18:07 22/03/21) inviting NCSPFA to a Zoom Meeting for the Annual Parish Meeting.

We have always requested that you give reasonable notice so that it would be possible to discuss items on the agenda, meet as a group and then attend. However, this to date has not happened. Indeed, the latest invite received gives less than 24 hours' notice. Due to this, it has not been possible for anyone to attend.

As an organisation, we have been patiently waiting for a formal response to the lease sent to you for some years now. No formal response has been received, except for a meeting that the Clerk and the Chair attended, called by the NCSPFA. Much was discussed and minuted. During this meeting, the reason given to the NCSPFA for not signing the lease was "air space" and "wild animals", as referred to in the lease. The NCSPFA were clear that this statement was only in reference to dogs, which could easily be amended. "Air space" was in reference to cover the subject of 'drones' so that children could remain safe and uncompromised by photography.

We further discussed the cost of the lease and the two outstanding grants (£500 each) allocated over two years + period to pay for the lease. The chair at the time was J Love, and the Parish Councillors were listed. It was agreed that the invoice would be sent to the Chair (at that time, J Love), when it was finally given to the Parish Council (PC). At the time, J Love had resigned from the PC and been replaced by a temporary Chair, Madhvi Sain [sic]. At the meeting, the Clerk took notes and figures (specifically requesting these) along with other items, including signs, bicycle stands and salt-boxes that the PC had agreed to purchase.

Further, Steve Appleby rather bizarrely was asked to liaise with the NCSPFA on behalf of the Parish Council, an unprecedented relationship, as he is not a Parish Councillor. Mr Appleby visited the Chair (of the NCSPFA), where he asked for the outstanding figures owed to Mr R Benson, and Mr Appleby took the above figures to the PC.

The NCSPFA have the children of Nuneham Courtenay at the heart of our meetings and have spent years consulting the relevant organisations, consultation with villagers, hundreds of meetings (involving all appropriate parties). The organisation can see no valid reason why progress has stalled, other than the signing of the lease and mention of the outstanding lease fees. However, Mr R Benson has never pushed for this refund of money and has been for a long-time out of pocket himself. It is considerate parishioners who, given his personal

circumstances, feel that the return of the money owed to him is only right.

We have been informed that there are “conspiracy theories” regarding the NCSPFA’s ownership, status, land, and members intentions. Also, PC monies were set aside for hostile plans towards the NCSPFA. As an organisation, we have always acted professionally and are committed to a playground outcome. We have all, individually, given personal donations (in both money and labour), as well as thousands of hours over many years. All goals could have been achieved if the lease was signed when there was money, both in South Oxfordshire District Council and other funding.

We saw the magazine article with amazement. The article refers to an agreement, which we have not seen. Neither S Appleby nor the NCSPFA has been given sight of the agreement that the PC Clerk wrote. The only agreement communicated between Mr Appleby and the NCSPFA Chair was this ‘idea’ of a map that would then go to the NCSPFA at their next meeting, post Covid-19 restrictions. Since then, Mr S Appleby has resigned from this ‘role’, and he is also unaware of what is in the said agreement.

As a result of the above and more, all members of the NCSPFA have had a fundamental breakdown in trust in the PC. We will, therefore, not be progressing with this partnership. We will be seeking funding elsewhere and independently of the PC.

The money owed to Mr R Benson will be dealt with separately.

We are disappointed with what has occurred. We had reached such a good stage in this project. However, undeterred, we will continue and deliver a playground.

Yours Sincerely,
The NCSPFA