

Nuneham Courtenay Sports & Playing Fields Association

Chairman: Ronald Morley Benson
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To Nuneham Courtenay Parish Council c/o Madhvi Saini

Dear Madhvi (on behalf of the NCPC),

Thank you for your letter received 5th June 2021. The NCSPFA have now met and this is our collective response.

We are trustees of this small charity. Ownership of the land is as trustees. We are clear of our intent as per the deeds, which is to protect the land as a playground given to Nuneham Courtenay children only and we have members that have done this for decades.

At the first opportunity to progress the grounds, we did so with the village plan team and participants. We have waited three years for the parish council to respond to the lease and our response to amend the lease to say 'dogs' rather than 'animals'. To date, there has been no response. The result of this delay cost us thousands of pounds in lost grant money and other funders' offers also lost. Therefore, we decided we must move forward with this project.

We suggest that the parish council, with our support, adds the playground to a community asset list to protect it further if they so wish. This suggestion was also given by the village plan team where it was thought the parish council should protect the village hall, shop and playground as a community asset.

However, this is a reminder that the playground land cannot be sold as an asset as it is only for Nuneham Courtenay children to use under trusteeship.

We can understand the local anger and frustration, as we have also similarly expressed our feelings to the parish council.

We wish to remind the parish council that health and safety rules apply to the grounds and must be certified as a safe playground before it can be insured for use.

We have regularly ensured the grass has been cut for decades. However, while we were waiting for the parish council's response, the grounds were used to climb trees and to build fires and barbeques under the trees by a few locals — which was unsafe. Following this, we

were advised to let the grass grow until we were ready to progress. No one would insure the action of fire building and random barbeques. Trustees must be responsive in such situations.

Regarding your comments on correspondence, the temporary chair who was standing-in while the actual chair was ill, did inform us all of your correspondence and personal telephone message sent to them. However, we are a committee of trustees and have a clear agreement that all such correspondence is heard at our meetings before a response is given.

The combination of COVID and individual illness delayed one meeting. We have since met and have progressed matters.

Re: OPFA

We contacted OPFA in 2020 to update them as we have always been involved with them. However, this was last summer and since then we have mediated with the parish council elected representative (Steve) — although we found this odd as we were open to meet back then with the parish council but we went along with the delegated representative.

This ended with the mediator confirming that which we had experienced over the last three years e.g. decisions were made then two parish council members changed the decisions, some views differing from others and so divisions and divisiveness by the parish council. This culminated in a breakdown, libellous and slanderous personal attacks. The mediator expressed how unhappy he was at certain members of the parish council's approach and wisely resigned.


We can not progress with the current parish council and intend to move forward without them. As we cannot go further with SODC grants as they are cut, we must focus on fundraising with those that can help us.


The whole community is more than welcome to help and be part of this process and many are and have expressed a desire to volunteer.


Thank you.

NCSPFA


DAVID CLIBBOW


PAM BENSON


P. BROOKS


R. M. BENSON

A. M. BENSON