



CHARVIL
PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Jim Gillett

Clerk to the Council:

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Minutes of an Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 1st August 2018

Present Jim Gillett (Chairman), Jane Hartley, Adrian Keward, Claire Andersen and the assistant clerk

Apologies for Absence Jackie Jeffery

Absent Daljit Ryatt, James Bell and Paul Mundy

Open Forum – There were no residents present

By virtue of the confidential nature of the business to be contracted the press and public are excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item(s) under Section 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

To re-review the Minutes of the meeting with Charvil Community Tennis Club (CCTC) on 9th July, together with further correspondence received more recently from CCTC. In the light of this correspondence and CCTC's ongoing breach of its contract with the Council, to consider what actions the Council should take, and to decide on these actions.

The Chairman began by running through the background of what we charge CCTC for the courts, what they get for their money, the terms of Council's agreement with them, and how CCTC has failed to keep to this agreement. He also outlined how much Council had spent on the courts and that there is a considerable financial shortfall, which is not a problem, but would be easier to justify if Council knew Charvil residents were the main beneficiaries of this expenditure.

The point that has caused most acrimony is that although the club signed the agreement which stipulates that they should provide the Council with a list of members quarterly, so that Council can ensure that only CCTC members enjoy the benefits of "turn up and play" free of charge and 25% off advanced bookings, this list has never been forthcoming. The membership list would also help Council see who the main beneficiaries of its expenditure are and would possibly influence what future investment would be made in the courts.

As regards extra expenditure on items to improve the club members' playing experience, the club will be informed that they will need to apply for a grant in the same way as any other group would, and that they will be given the Council's policy

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on this as any other group would be. This would not mean they would be automatically given funding, but it is the correct process for asking for it.

The other major problem is that CCTC have not asked when they have altered their timetable, so it is hard for the Assistant Clerk to be able to keep track on when the courts are busy when she gets booking requests. This is completely unacceptable and led to the invoicing of a session that appeared to be an extra session when it was probably a session that had been moved without asking first.

The question was asked as to what the Council wanted to achieve from this meeting, and the answer to that was Council wanted greater use of its courts, and a club that interacted with the Council in the same way as any other users of Council facilities do. It was stressed by the Clerk and Assistant Clerk, that they believe it is preferable to have as much of the tennis use as possible going through the club due to administration time etc. but that the terms of the agreement had to be met.

The other point that has caused consternation is that in its efforts to boost usage, Council introduced a family pass at £30 per year as a replacement for the scheme the Borough used to promote under their management, which CCTC have taken as a direct effort to undermine them. While this could not be further from the truth, the Council has not actively pushed this membership, and resolved to suspend the scheme for this year, subject to coming to an amicable arrangement with the club, for a fresh start with the scheme next year.

After some discussion, it was resolved to impose the terms of the agreement and suspend the "Turn up and Play" option plus the 25% discount on advanced bookings unless Council are either given the membership list, or individual members agree to give Council their details, so Council staff know that court users are indeed club members. The Club will be given two weeks in which to comply before the benefit is rescinded. Council will put up a notice on the court gate, so all court users are aware of this decision.

It was also resolved to withdraw the invoice for extra court usage but to make clear that to avoid such confusion again, the club MUST ask the Assistant Clerk for permission to change the agreed timetable at least two weeks before any change.

Going forward, it was agreed that the clerk would write to the club of these decisions, and that over the coming months Council will try to work with the club to find ways of improving court usage and revenue to cover maintenance costs.

The meeting ended at 8.35pm