



Minutes of an Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 7th August
2017

Present Jim Gillett (Chairman), John Hobson, Jackie Jeffery, Paul Mundy, James Bell, John Davies and the assistant clerk

Apologies for Absence Claire Andersen and Fi Mowlem

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 Discuss How to Proceed with the Fencing Dispute at East Park Farm

Most of the Council met at East Park Farm to familiarise themselves with the issues that had been raised with the contractor regarding the unfinished fence.

They then convened as normal at the Village Hall, where the Chairman provided a summary of the events of the last week, from the point where work was halted due to concerns about the quality of both the materials and the workmanship. He described the Council's efforts to get some legal advice on how to proceed; that the Council's legal helpline through the insurers had been helpful, but he did not regard BALC or NALC as at all helpful.

The legal advice obtained suggested the safest course of action was to offer the contractor a second chance to put the work right and to complete to a satisfactory standard.

A satisfactory standard would mean including the agreed gaps in a proper fashion, rather than just cutting holes afterwards, using wood of a suitable quality for a public amenity area, ensuring enough concrete was used to prevent the fence posts from wobbling and leaving enough space for the football pitches to be compliant with FA regulations. This would mean that, at the very minimum, the rails would all need replacing with better quality wood, and may mean the fence needs to be moved closer to the path, as was agreed with the Chairman and the Chair of the Amenities Committee on two separate occasions before any work started. If the contractor does not wish to accept this, then the Council will pay him for his work thus far, but there is some disagreement as to whether he has done as much as he has invoiced the Council for.

There was a long discussion as to whether the fence was preventing the football pitches from being legal, and it was agreed that the assistant clerk would clarify this point with the grounds team before contacting the contractor. *Clerk's note: On meeting with the grounds team, it was agreed that the fence could stay put but that the goal posts would need to be moved so there is enough space between the touchline and the fence.*

Subject to this point being clarified, Council resolved to delegate negotiating powers to the Chairman such that he can state its position to the contractor as laid out above, and agree on a solution to the unacceptable timber and workmanship, and that he would report back to Council as soon as he can. If the contractor was amenable to these conditions, he would be allowed to complete the work, but extra cost implications would need to be approved by Council

There being no further business the open meeting closed at 9.20pm

Chairman's Signature