

MINUTES of the remote extraordinary meeting of Chalgrave Parish Council held on Wednesday, March 3rd, 2021 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Jan Day; Cllr. Ken Green; Cllr. Debbie Levy; Cllr. Kevin Ludgate; Cllr Frances Masters; Cllr. Phil Parry-Chairman; Cllr Peter Warburton; Lesley Smith-Clerk.

Public: 10

Cllr Parry began the meeting by welcoming everybody.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

2. TO SIGN MINUTES OF the FEBRUARY 16TH, 2021 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the February 16th, 2021 meeting were amended, approved by the PC and signed as correct by the chairman.

3. SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Parry and Levy declared a prejudicial interest-Chalgrave Sports Club
Cllrs Day and Masters are on the editorial team of The Chalgrave News.

4. CHALGRAVE SPORTS CLUB

Cllr Masters read out a letter from Mr Roger Fenwick and Mrs Jill Fenwick regarding the termination of tenancy of the sports field and the reasons for it. This letter was an amended version of a letter previously sent to the clerk on January 22nd, 2021 and later retracted by the Fenwicks on January 25th, 2021. The amended letter was sent to the clerk on February 20th, 2021. The letter gave reasons as to why the tenancy had been terminated. The date on the letter remained as January 22nd, 2021.

**** Cllr Masters said, for clarity, there were three questions that needed answering:**

1: Have the Parish council been misled?

2: if so, how and when were they misled?

3: if they were misled, what are the consequences?

Background.

Cllr Parry explained the background to the termination.

In his capacity as chairman of the Sports Club both he and Mr Nev Andrews have been maintaining the grounds and clubhouse. Although not a resident of the parish Mr Andrews has been involved with the Sports Club for 25 years. The termination of tenancy came out of the blue, one reason given was that the Covid-19 rules were being broken. Another concerned the lack of cricket matches played. Since the receipt of the termination notice the club has written to the Fenwicks twice.

The club has sent the Fenwicks a letter of apology and informing them that Mr Andrews has resigned from the club and Phil Parry has offered to resign from the club. The whole Sports Club Committee would also be prepared to resign. Ultimately the landowners have the right to do what they like with their land.

Further discussion

Cllr Warburton asked if there was still hope at the February 16th meeting that there was a way back. Cllr Parry answered in the affirmative. The committee was also concerned about the lack of cricket matches, as reported in past editions of the Chalgrave News. The committee is hoping to introduce other sports as well. The committee is still trying to pursue a resolution with the Fenwicks and keep the club going. Cllr Green

said that the Fenwicks would like full contrition from the Sports Club Committee. Cllr Parry commented that he and Mr Andrews had been following guidance from the England and Wales Cricket Board. (See note at the end of the minutes).

Cllr Masters asked if the Parish Council was misled at the February 16th meeting. Cllr Parry replied that there was no intention to mislead and any such perception was a result of the retraction of the letter sent to the clerk on January 22nd, 2021. The clerk said she was responsible for not circulating the termination of tenancy notice on January 22nd, 2021. This accompanied the letter sent to the clerk from the Fenwicks dated January 22nd, 2021 and retracted on January 25th, 2021.

Cllr Masters then asked Cllr Levy why she had shown Mr Paul Levy the email that Cllr Green had sent to the members of the PC after his conversation with Mr Fenwick, which took place immediately after the February 16th PC meeting. Cllr Levy said that the contents of the email had caused her distress. Later in this meeting she apologised for what had been perceived as a breach of confidentiality on her part. Cllr Green said that this particular matter had now been resolved and he asked that the meeting move forward.

Open Forum

1. Mr Paul Levy.

There has been further correspondence between the Sports Club and Mr and Mrs Fenwick. The Fenwicks have not ruled out any site for cricket, possibly behind the Memorial Hall.

All the club's assets would be passed on to a new committee, including the club house, cricket nets and cage. The club is reviewing with Central Bedfordshire Council what needs to be done regarding the grants that the club received from it. The remaining balance is less than the grants so the assets need to be liquidated. The club has 90 days from March 29th, 2021 to clear the field. Some assets may remain in situ. The committee will have a field sale in order to raise money to repay the grants.

2. Cllr Masters

Cllr Masters again raised the issue of Cllr Levy passing on Cllr Green's email to Mr Paul Levy. Cllr Green asked that the matter be closed. Cllr Parry added that apologies had been received from all sides.

3. Mr Paul Levy (PL); Cllr Parry (PP); Cllr Green (KG)

PL: If there is a new entity for cricket the Fenwicks will have the full support of the Sports Club.

PP: The Sports Club wants to broaden things out to include, for example, walking football. There is a possibility of ground behind the Memorial Hall

KG: The Fenwicks are suggesting other land might be appropriate only if the Sports Club is viable.

PP: The Sports Club will support the Fenwicks in whatever they decide to do.

PL: The Fenwicks felt cricket was not being played and the club respects the landowners to do what they want with their land. The reasons for the termination came out of the blue. The Sports Club plans to continue.

4. Cllr Masters

In reviewing what has happened what could have been done differently so that the situation did not arrive at this point?

Cllr Parry closed the meeting at 21.11

Lesley Smith
Clerk to Chalgrave Parish Council

Note

Extract from England and Wales Cricket Board-COVID-19 Advice

You can also continue to go to work if your work cannot be undertaken from home. So people employed or volunteering to work on grounds maintenance over the winter can continue to do so subject to suitable COVID risk assessment and control measures being in place. Further information on winter maintenance of cricket grounds under COVID can be found on the Grounds Management Association [website](#).

**** Amendments made to these minutes at the March 16th, 2021 Parish Council meeting.**