

Clerk's Statement Regarding Clapps Mead Playing Field.

1. Chideock Parish Council's position regarding Clapps Mead.

Clapps Mead was gifted to the Parish Council on 8 February 1938 in memory of Annie C Grafton by her husband Walter P Grafton and their children Eric A Grafton and Rowena Grafton.

The bequest conveys Clapps Mead to the Parish Council to hold in fee simple as public ground under the Recreation Grounds Act 1859 to be used in perpetuity as a Playing Field and Recreation Ground for the benefit of the inhabitants of the parish, subject to a schedule of 23 conditions.

The conditions within the conveyance state that the Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of the area and has the power to provide seats and "childrens appliances for recreation".

Interestingly "Clapps" is used rather than "Clapp's".

The area was registered with the Land Register in 2013 under title number DT382025.

The Parish Council owns all items within the field, all items are listed on the Asset Register and, where appropriate, all items are insured.

Public Liability insurance is in place.

All repairs are paid for by the Parish Council.

All equipment is purchased and owned by the Parish Council.

Quarterly safety inspections are conducted by a Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents qualified person, paid for by the Parish Council.

Two weekly visual inspections are conducted by a rota of councillors.

Minor repairs are conducted by volunteers under the authority of the Parish Council.

Major repairs to equipment are conducted by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents qualified person, paid for by the Parish Council.

Other major repairs / replacements e.g. fencing, tree work, are conducted by qualified tradesman.

2. The Committee of Management.

Condition 1 of the 1938 conveyance states that: -

"The management of the premises to be in the hands of a Committee of Management
....."

However, given that the Parish Council owns Clapps Mead and the conditions state that that the Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of the area the Committee of Management cannot act without authority from the Parish Council.

The Committee of Management is not a Parish Council committee but must have at least one Parish Councillor member.

3. The Friends of Clapps Mead.

The Friends of Clapps Mead was set up in 2022 with the specific purpose of raising funds towards the maintenance and enhancement of Clapps Mead by the Parish Council.

It is independent of the Parish Council.

4. Purchase of a ground level trampoline.

In March 2023 the Parish Council agreed to purchase a ground level trampoline. Subsequently a Lottery Awards for All grant was applied for, but this was unsuccessful.

The Friends of Clapps Mead suggested that they could grant money to the Parish Council for the cost (ex. VAT) of a smaller ground level trampoline. This was accepted at the September Parish Council meeting.

The minutes are incorrect (minute number 2984 d) - the trampoline has been purchased by Chideock Parish Council not by the Friends of Clapps Mead.