

<b>Meeting Number</b>	70
<b>Date Of Meeting:</b>	Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January 2004
<b>Location:</b>	Brigstock Village Hall
<b>Purpose Of Meeting:</b>	Informal meeting for members of cricket club to talk to members of parish council
<b>Minutes Prepared By:</b>	Nigel Searle
<b>Date &amp; Location Of Next Meetings:</b>	Next scheduled meeting Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2004 Brigstock Village Hall @ 7:30
<b>Attendees:</b>	Mrs. D Solesbury, Mr B Fitton, Mrs S Becket, Mrs. B Simon, Mr J Harca, Mrs. B Langley, Mr J Steward, Mr J Chudley
<b>Apologies:</b>	Mrs P Shaw, Mrs S Wilks,
<b>Copies to:</b>	All Parish councillors, Mrs Jenny Spencer, Football and Cricket club secretaries

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Mrs Langley opened the meeting by welcoming the representatives of the cricket and football clubs.

**The purpose and aims of the meeting was tabled by the chair, these were:-**

- Agreement on charges to use the meadow
  - How the charges are to be collected
  - Agreement on conditions of usage
  - How agent and legal charges are apportioned
  - Decision as to if the parish Council should renew the lease in 2005
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### **Background information**

Rent paid to Mr Spencer by parish council

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|--------|-------------------|---|
| • 1957 | £40:00 per Year   |   |
| • 1974 | £80:00 per year   |   |
| • 1984 | £320:00 per year  |   |
| • 1998 | £1800:00 per year |   |
| • 2005 | £3000:00 per year | This is the proposed rent when the lease come up for renewal. |

Rent currently paid to parish council by meadow users

- £100:00 per year by the school
- £100:00 per year by the cricket club (this was £66:00 per year up to 1998)
- £100:00 per year by the football club (this was £66:00 per year up to 1998)

The chair stated the parish council position

- It had budgeted to pay a maximum of £1600:00 rent from parish funds and obtain the balance by charging the organisations that used the meadow.
  - It was required that organisations using the meadow should have a formal agreement with the parish council.
  - It was the parish council's intention to increase the rent to the organisations using the meadow from April 2004
  - How the legal costs were to be apportioned was to be agreed when there was a firm indication on what the final bill would be.
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### **Declaration of interest**

Prior to any discussions taking place councillor James Steward declared an interest. This was not thought to be prejudicial and Mr Steward was not required to leave the meeting. Mr Steward did not take part in the subsequent dialogue.

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### **Proposed charges**

The chair outlined that the parish council were seeking to increase charges. These to be in place for April 2004

- Cricket club in the order of £1000:00
  - Football club in the order of £300:00
  - School to remain at £100:00
  - Car boot and other similar fundraising events to be charged at £50:00
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### **Cricket club**

Mr Bamford understood the difficult position and outlined the position of the cricket club that is summarised below.

- Need to improve communication. At the AGM the cricket club will nominate a member(s) with which the parish council could have as its contact(s).
- Concern expressed that the success of the cricket club was being punished by the large rent burden.
- The cricket clubs finances were not strong and it still had a significant debt to be repaid from the building of the pavilion. Their current position is that current finances are at about break even
- Cannot pay the proposed rent and pay off debts
- Not happy at having to pay fee for fund raising events
- Members at no charge undertake all of the groundwork. If the cricket club did not do this, parish council would have to pay a contractor.

**Football club**

Members of the football club agreed and supported the comments by the cricket club.

- After a match they pay for the cleaning of the pavilion (at cost)
  - Referee charges
  - Only the income from its members
  - Proposed rent increase would result in them playing their fixtures in Stanion.
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**General discussion**

There was general discussion but the situation not resolved. All parties were between a rock and a hard place. The parish council for 2004 - 05 had increased its precept for the first time in several years, this year by £2,500:00 to cover projected legal costs should it take on a new lease for the meadow and to reinstate a contingency. If the extra income from organisations could not be found then it is by no means certain that the parish council will renew.

It was stated that if the parish council can negotiate more favourable terms for the new lease with Mr Spencer this would be reflected in the increases required.

The parish council were resolved to have a formal agreement with cricket and football clubs, because it was thought to be within the best interests of all parties. The clerk had been instructed to make an appointment with solicitors to peruse this.

It was stated that the parish council were flexible on how the rent was paid e.g. 6 months in arrears, it would consider any suggestion that would be helpful to the clubs.

After the members of the clubs had left the meeting room the parish council members continued discussions. It was agreed subject to a vote at the next full parish council meeting the proposed rent for 2004-05 would be reduced as follows to help and show support for the sporting organisations.

Cricket club £500:00 for the year paid £250:00 in April and £250 in September  
Football club £200:00 for the year paid £100:00 in April and £100 in September

Rent for 2005 onwards would reflect the negotiated rent to the parish council on signing a new lease. At this stage the parish council have not made a decision to renew.