Shillingford St George Parish Council

Lower Horrels

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Longdown

Exeter

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Date: 4 November

Dear Mr McKenzie,

Shillingford st George parish council are writing to you in your capacity of principal trustee for the village green in Shillingford st George, also known locally as the Millennium Field. This letter is also copied to those trustees that the parish council is aware of.

It is the understanding of the parish council that you kindly donated the village green to the parish of Shillingford st George in the year 2000 in memory of your late mother and that the field was set up in trust for the parish. The parishioners therefore would be the beneficiaries of the trust. It is understood that Martin Bragg sold the land to you in the belief that it would be used to the benefit of the parish. The parish council agreed to undertake the upkeep and maintenance of the village green on behalf of the parish. The village green has become a valued open space in the community and has hosted numerous events.

The parish council believes that the trustees now plan to fence the village green from the village hall carpark to prevent vehicles being taken onto the grass. This significantly restricts the free access of the parish and also will impede the parish council maintenance of the area. On behalf of the parish, the parish council would like to raise significant concerns regarding these plans as we believe that this action is not in the best interests of the parishioners.

When Mr Selby Herd raised the issue of parking on the grass at a parish council meeting earlier in the year, we asked if a member of the parish council could attend any meetings of trustees in order to represent the parish. We understand there has been a recent meeting of the trustees where the decision was made regarding the fence but we have received no requests by letter, phone call or email to attend a meeting of trustees. We also asked for a copy of the constitution and were first told that it was with the solicitors. We asked for a copy when the solicitors had finished with it and were finally told that there was no constitution and the village green had been set up as a Deed of Trust. This information was given to the parish council by Mr and Mrs Selby Herd who we understand to be trustees.

Therefore. in your capacity as principle trustee, could you please advise us of the type of trust that was set up, give us details of all trustees and send us a copy of the trust document and minutes of the meeting where the decision was made to erect a fence on the village green?

Please also outline what consultation has taken place with the residents of the parish so that the trustees can ensure that they are acting in unison as trustees and carrying out your obligations by acting in the best interests of the beneficiaries of the trust, i.e. the parishioners.

The Parish Council would welcome a meeting with the trustees in order to discuss this matter and ask that you agree to meet with us in the interests of the parish as a whole, so that we can jointly seek a solution to protect the village green while maintaining the accessibility for responsible use and upkeep.

yours sincerely

Sarah Sharpe (on behalf of the parish council)

Parish Clerk

cc. Mrs A Barker

Mr M Bragg

Mr P Mead

Mr & Mrs Selby – Herd

Mrs M Titball

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