



## Itchen Valley Parish Council

Emergency Meetings Held in Respect of Travellers on site at King George Vth

Playing Fields at Couch Green, Martyr Worthy

Venue: Shrubbs Hill, Main Road, Itchen Abbas

### Timeline of events 26-27<sup>th</sup> June 2019

#### **26<sup>th</sup> June**

7.00 -8.00 pm Travellers set up Camp at the KGVth field, Martyr Worthy, So21 1EA.  
approx. 10 caravans, up to 30 other vehicles.

8.00pm Cllr Appleby and Riley attend site to assess situation, spoke to one Traveller planning to stay until the weekend, maybe longer.

8.10pm Police called: incident number 932  
Police attended that evening but no eviction.

8.34pm Clerk notified

9.30pm Cllr Sprott of NATC provided key contacts and process used by NATC to evict travellers on Stratton Bates.

10.00pm HCC Gypsy and Traveller Officer contacted. Message left

10.21pm Email received from IA resident recommending Bailiff organisation specialising in dealing with travellers.

#### **27<sup>th</sup> June**

8.45am HCC Asst. Gypsy and Traveller Officer contact Clerk with Advice

9.05am HCC Asst Gypsy Officer called Cllr Riley, confirms no welfare checks necessary as group know to team. Welfare checks recently carried out at Wilton Close on behalf of WCC. No welfare issues to report.

9.10am Bailiff organisation (Constant and Co) contacted by telephone advice given, in first instance to ask police if a section 61 notice could be used.

10.00am Meeting 1 convened

#### **Meeting 1**

27<sup>th</sup> June 10.00hrs

Present: Cllr Patrick Appleby, Cllr Christopher Langford, Cllr Yvette Riley,

#### **Action Points**

- PA to request costs from the Bailiffs, process and earliest ETA
  - £950 +VAT To attend and serve notice to quit.
  - £995 +VAT To attend day 2 for first 2 hours and £250 every hour after.
  - Plus tow trucks at cost if needed TBC



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- Clerk to check Parish Council insurance cover with RADAR for cover limits
- PA contacted Police re further action, police not planning further involvement.
- YR confirmed no welfare checks needed following conversation with HCCs Asst Gypsy & Traveller Officer
- Couch Green Title deeds to be provided to Bailiffs (PA to collect from Clerk), scan/photocopy required.
- Bailiffs commissioning paperwork completed in draft awaiting outcome from Insurers.

### **Meeting 2**

27<sup>th</sup> June 2019 14.00 hrs

Present: Cllr Patrick Appleby, Cllr Yvette Riley, Cllr Stephen Andrews

### **Action Points:**

- Confirmed that Police would not proceed with eviction under s61.
- Clerk confirmed that insurers would cover cost of Bailiffs but not clean-up costs
- Options discussed. Decision to proceed with Constant and Co Bailiffs to serve notice to quit site this afternoon. Quitting time 20.00 hrs.
- PA to meet Bailiffs on site at approx. 16.00 hrs
- Comms plan agreed: Itchen List, Neighbourhood watch and verbal briefings for local neighbours. PA and YR to complete.
- Commissioning proforma with site maps completed and sent to Bailiffs.

### Timeline of Events: 15.00 hrs onwards on 27<sup>th</sup> June

15.30hrs local neighbours informed of Action plan  
16.00 hrs Bailiffs arrived at Couch Green  
16.15hrs Notice to quit served on Travellers. Quit by 20.00Hrs  
20.00 hrs No movement from Travellers. PA informed Bailiffs.

### Timeline of events 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019

07.00hrs Cllr Appleby visited site. Travellers still present. Cllr Appleby contacted & advised the appointed bailiff, who activated their team to attend the site to evict the travellers.  
09.00hrs Cllr Appleby visited site. Travellers were still occupying the site.  
11.10hrs Bailiffs arrived to evict Travellers  
12.00hrs Police in attendance, Bailiffs on site



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## **Meeting 3**

28<sup>th</sup> June 2019 12.00hrs

Present: Cllr Patrick Appleby, Cllr Christopher Langford, Cllr Yvette Riley,  
Cllr Stephen Andrews

## **Action Points**

- The Council resolved that the site should be secured as much and as quickly as possible. Councillors Appleby, Riley and Langford to inspect the site and take photographs of all damage and waste left behind.
- Council agreed to secure the car park whilst clean-up operation is in effect.
- Relock high level gate & Close Low Level Gate PA
- Clerk to get an estimate from Constant & Co for clean up, but no human or animal waste. MLA
- It was noted that the Councils' Insurers will not pay for the clear up and that the Council will need to cover all clear up costs. ALL
- Cllr Appleby to consult with Kevin Rosewell on how to improve the security of the High-Level Barrier PA
- Council resolved to contact Cllr Moffatt to see if he has any trailers that can be used to block off the entrance to the car park. YR
- Councillors discussed long term solutions to secure KGVth playing fields and adjacent play area.
- Council discussed the possibility of 'ditch and bund' method which has been advocated by Nickolas Waite, Assistant Gypsy Liaison Officer at Hampshire County Council.
- Council resolved to enquire with Cllr Moffatt if he was aware of anyone that would be able to perform the 'ditch and bunding' at the site. YR
- Clerk to investigate what other Councils do to secure their playing fields. MLA
- Cllr Appleby was asked to procure road pins and barrier tape. PA
- Fencing will require repairing. Clerk to get quote from James White Fencing and liaise with Insurance Company regarding payment. MLA



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- Cllr Riley has advised Worthy Youth Football Club that KGVth site is closed
- After inspection Clerk will notify HCC if Watercress Way and Railway need clearing      MLA
- Cllr Riley to speak to Winchester City Council Councillor, Cllr Power to see if they can assist .with clean up      YR
- Meeting Closed at 12:59pm

13.00 hrs Council notified by Bailiffs that Travellers had left the site. Entrances to site secured with chains and padlocks. Debris, Fly tipping, human and animal excrement all visible at the site.

### **Extra:**

Initial recce of site by PA, YR and CL. At approximately 13.10

Liaised with Bailiffs and police

Clean up operation organised via WCC.

WCC Fly tipping team deployed to clear site

Site cleared and secured by 17.00 hrs

Itchen List asked to stay away from site until waste treatments had been effective.

### **Initial Assessment of damaged items:**

1. Overhead barrier lock
2. Low level parking rail and post
3. Safety matting of in ground trampoline pulled up
4. Gate clasp removed from Children's play area.
5. Gate sign "no dogs in play area" damaged"
6. Play area slide to be cleaned of unknow substance poured down slide

### **Waste to be cleared**

1. Human and dog excrement
2. General household litter
3. Fly tipped tree branches etc

**Footnote:** The Council made the above decisions as the Owners/Trustees of the King George Vth Field and the of land adjacent to it which was unlawfully occupied during this period.