

## Buckland Monachorum Parish Council

Minutes of a remote meeting of the **BUCKLAND MONACHORUM PARISH COUNCIL** held on **TUESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021** at **7.30pm** at **Buckland Monachorum Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs M Fowler- Chair (MF), S Woollacott (SW), V Bolitho (VB), M Sheridan (MS), G Baid (GB), D Foley, K Cornthwaite and A Cunningham (AC)

**In Attendance:** Katharine Griffiths (Parish Clerk) and 18 members of the public were also present.

**221/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs S Challis, R Cheadle, A West and R Houston. Devon County Councillor Philip Sanders also offered his apologies.

It was noted that Cllr Cornthwaite left the meeting at 8.45pm

**222/21 TO NOTE THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR CHALLIS AS VICE-CHAIR AND TO ELECT A NEW VICE-CHAIR.**

It was noted that Cllr Challis has stood down as vice-chair. It was proposed by Cllr Fowler that Cllr Cheadle be Vice-Chair for the remainder of the year, this was seconded by Cllr Cornthwaite and agreed by full council.

**TO RECEIVE DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.**

**223/21** Cllr M Sheridan declared a personal interest in item 10.

**224/21 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES, OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

**A. The full parish council meeting on 29th June 2021**

**b. The finance meetings 20th April and 14th July 2021**

**C. Planning meetings of 29th June and 14th July 2021**

The above minutes were **agreed** as a true record.

**225/21 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE WDBC CLLRS FOR THIS WARD (CLLR CHEADLE & CLLR WOOD)**

No report this meeting due to Councillor apologies.

**226/21 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL CLLR (CLLR SANDERS).**

Cllr Sanders had made his apologies.

**227/21 AN UPDATE WITH REGARD TO ACCESS THROUGH ST ANDREWS WAS SCHOOL AND ACCESS TO THE PLAYING FIELD OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS.**

Cllr Fowler gave a brief background to the situation and invited to the community to speak. One member of the public read a statement on behalf of the community and the people present. This is attached as Appendix 1. A number of letters from the younger community were read, highlighting how much they enjoyed using the field and one regarding a near miss accident on the road as they were unable to go through the school. The significant increase

Additional information provided was that the school pool and grounds have been open for a total of 5 hours over the last two days and there have been 60 swimmers and at least 20 other people using the grounds.

Cllr Fowler commented further that there has been much communication between himself and the school. He thanked Cllr Woollacott also for her time spent at The Hub going through the historical minutes. The parish council are currently trying to obtain further information and a true legal position from Devon County Council. Once all the information has been obtained the Parish Council will endeavour to set up a meeting between all the relevant bodies. A letter has been received from the Chair of Governors and will be put on the BMPC website. It is attached as Appendix 2.

Cllr Woollacott commented that by closing off the field it deprives the community of a vital large green space within the village.

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A member of the public commented “that it was sad that it had come to this, the community don’t want conflict, but to work together and not be shut out and prove to the school how much it matters to us. What can the community do to help?”

**228/21**

**AN UPDATE FROM THE MEETING WITH THE YELVERTON GROUND MAINTENANCE CONTRACTOR.**

Cllr Cunningham gave a summary of the meeting that was held between the contractor, councillors and clerk. The issues that had been raised were discussed and the contractor was questioned on why he couldn’t do certain things. It was felt that it was a productive meeting.

This evening the clerk has received a letter and the chair has received a phone call from the contractor tendering their one month notice to terminate the contract.

Cllrs were reminded that they should not act on their own and actions must be agreed by the full council. A discussion was held around the communications and what the way forward should be.

**229/21**

**AN UPDATE ON THE BUS CAGE MARKINGS CRAPSTONE.**

The clerk has received a phone call from DCC with regard to the bus cage markings and double yellow lines as previously agreed. There is a considerable cost for double yellow lines to be installed as they require a road traffic order (RTO). An option put forward that was put forward was that the bus cage remains where it is and is renewed. The clerk requested for the information to be put into an email, but this has not been received yet. The option was agreeable in principle, but written confirmation is required before formally agreeing.

**230/21**

**TO DISCUSS HOW TO MARK THE QUEENS DIAMOND JUBILEE.**

This will be discussed at the next meeting.

**231/21**

**FINANCE**

The list of payments for July had been circulated prior to the meeting.

There are a number of regular payments that are made each month including the clerks wages, HMRC, pension and the ground maintenance contracts that are usually agreed at the full council meeting. Due to no full council meeting in august the clerk requested that it be agreed that these payments can be made for the month of august. This was **agreed**.

i) The following receipts were NOTED since the last meeting;  
Interment : £150, Memorial : £40, Field Rent: £220

ii) The following payments made since the last meeting were NOTED.

KG Salary	£ 1,052.21
Tony Benger Landscaping	
K Parriss - Website	
A Marshall Internal Audit	£ 1,620.10
SW - Sundries	£ 102.65
HMRC	£ 88.14
Devon Pension Fund	£ 291.94
Perfect Pasture	£ 850.00
Dartmoor Pest Control	£ 387.00
S Scown - Consecration upper cemetery	£ 660.00
K Parriss - Website	£ 210.00
A Marshall Internal Audit	£ 200.00

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iii) The following payments to be made were **agreed**.

Recipient	Amount	VAT(If applicable)	TOTAL
<b>Perfect Pastures</b>	726.04	145.21	<b>871.25</b>
<b>Tony Benger</b>	1350.08	270.02	<b>1620.10</b>
<b>K Cornthwaite Reimbursement compost and seed</b>	39.96		<b>39.96</b>
<b>HMRC</b>	88.34		<b>88.34</b>
<b>Devon Pension Fund</b>	291.94		<b>291.94</b>
<b>KG Wages and expenses</b>	1051.73		<b>1051.73</b>
<b>To note payment for Internal Audit</b>	£200		<b>£200</b>

iv) The bank reconciliation was noted.

**YELVERTON: CYCLE GROUP UPDATE:**

**232/21 AN UPDATE WITH REGARD TO THE REPLACEMENT BIN BY THE TOILETS.**

As Cllr Cornthwaite is not present this will be carried forward to the next meeting.

**233/21 AN UPDATE WITH REGARD TO THE WATER SUPPLY.**

Cllr Fowler now has access to the toilets, he is in discussions about the best type of tap and best location for Health and Safety reasons.

**234/21 AN UPDATE WITH REGARD TO THE MAPS AND DISPLAY BOARDS.**

Cllr Foley has been working on the design and layout of the map and will circulate. The maps outline the various business premises and there will be space for advertising around the edge.

**Cemetery:**

**235/21 TO CONSIDER A NEW SIGN AT THE CEMETERY SHOWING THE FEES.**

Carried forward to the next agenda

**236/21 TO CONSIDER A POSSIBLE DONATION OF A BENCH.**

The clerk has received a request for a bench on the cemetery. It has been noted previously that there are a number of benches that need replacing. Cllr Woollacott kindly offered to look at the size of the bases and report back.

**PLAYPARK'S**

**237/21 BUCKLAND MONACHORUM-ANY UPDATES**

A grant towards a new picnic bench has been awarded from the Tamar Valley Sustainable Development Fund. An application for Lottery Funding for a new piece of play equipment will be submitted this week.

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Cllr Baird is continuing to check the cargo net on a regular basis and will report back if any repairs are required.

### **238/21 UPDATE ON CRAPSTONE PLAYPARK**

Cllr Woollacott gave an update that some of the equipment had arrived, but unfortunately there is a delay on one piece. The equipment that has arrived will be installed.

A short discussion around the use of the play field was had. It appears that it is not well used and could it be used for something else. Cllr Folley suggested a bike track or similar.

### **239/21 ANY FURTHER REPAIRS TO BE CONSIDERED.**

Cllr Baird commented that the handle on the gate had come off at Buckland Playpark. It has been fixed but there is a bolt sticking out. He will have a look at fix accordingly.

### **240/21 CORRESPONDENCE**

Cllr Fowler has received communication from a partially sighted parishioner who has reported that a path through The Rock complex has been closed off and this makes it difficult for them to get from the surgery to the pharmacy. Cllr Fowler is looking into whether anything can be done.

### **241/21 BMPC COMMUNICATIONS (NEWSLETTERS, SOCIAL MEDIA, PRESS ARTICLES).**

Nothing Further.

### **242/21 UPDATE ON PARISH PATHS (P3) AND OTHER FOOTPATH MATTERS. (CLLR WOOLLACOTT)**

Cllr Woollacott gave an update that Footpath 19 has had a stile replaced with a gate.

Otherwise all is good and nothing further to report.

### **243/21 HIGHWAY MATTERS: ANY TO BE REPORTED AND UPDATES.**

Cllr Sheridan reported that there are a couple of areas in Crapstone where the visibility is bad. It is thought that some of these areas have recently been cut back by a volunteer.

### **244/21 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

Queens Jubilee Celebrations

Yelverton Car Parks

Any Further items can be forwarded to the clerk.

### **245/21 FUTURE MEETING DATES :**

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August – Planning 7.30pm Buckland Monachorum Village Hall

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> August – Planning 7.30pm Location TBC

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September – Planning Followed by GP 7.00pm Location TBC

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September - Planning followed by Full Council at 7.00pm Location TBC

The meeting closed at 21.35

Appendix 1 :

Buckland School grounds

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Good evening my name is [REDACTED], I am a lifelong resident of Buckland.

I am an OFSTED registered childcare professional.

I am representing many of my community, our children and young people tonight.

The school gates have been closed to the community since May/June 2020 “to keep the grounds Covid secure “The community of Buckland have respected this decision by the school and thank them for their concern.

The school prospectus says “we welcome the use of the school grounds after school, at weekends and in holiday periods”. We now ask that the school gates and our access to the lower play area within the school grounds can now, once again, be open outside of school hours.

The school and land were purchased in 1974/75 being financed by grants, gifts, and a substantial amount being raised by the community and PTA, “a community school built off community funds”.

The school opened in September 1976, historically the playpark at Crosspark was reduced in size to allow for the construction of the turning circle which had been “requested “by Devon Education Board. The parish council agreed as the community now had the right of way to a large open green space within the school ground with access out of hours.

Our concerns

Road safety, with the closure of the school gates our children will no longer be able to use the safer route of the school to access the playpark, our elderly residents cannot safely access the cemetery, Chapel, Church or Pub. The route will be along a dangerous narrow road with no pavements.

There will be no accessible green space for any adults or children with limited mobility.

The children's act 2004 states that the “safeguarding well-being and welfare of children should be promoted (in particular by local authorities). We know this is very important to the school, the prospectus says “members of the community should feel secure that concerns about welfare and safety will be listened to and taken seriously”.

Our children and families are now beginning the long process of recovering from the impact that the covid pandemic has had on all of us A year of on off home learning, with added screen time, loss of income and employment for many, isolation, fear of illness, deprived of support from core family members, the list is endless.

Outdoor recreation has proven psychological benefits including the prevention or reduction of stress, improving self-esteem, confidence and creativity, spiritual growth, an increased sense of adventure, fun and of wellbeing for all ages.

The green play area in the school grounds will have a detrimental effect if closed, we are concerned that the previous links the community of Buckland have always had with the school may be lost. The community resenting the loss of such a valuable and vital green space in Buckland.

St Andrews School Buckland is in the centre of the village, the very heart of the community, to exclude our children and residents the right of access is unkind and uncaring.

Many of the children who currently attend the school do not live within the immediate area so the closure of our green space will have no impact on their lives. It will continue to have a large impact on families within the village in our future.

The school refers to vandalism, anti-social behavior and littering in the school grounds and unfortunately there have been some incidents over the years that this has been happening.

We are waiting for information from the relevant authorities which will inform us of reported

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cases.

Health and safety also is problem in today's world, needing adequate signage for play areas. We would like to help and support the school by working together to reduce all incidents and to protect their resources, perhaps we could raise funds to purchase security equipment, extra lighting ,necessary signage for health and safety on the play area. We can offer help with things like litter picking whilst the play area is open and before school term starts, helping to maintain shrubs and other small jobs, keeping a watchful eye on the security of the school and reporting it.

We have so far

Written with our concerns to the Head teacher, the governors, the parish council and Sir Geoffrey Cox MP

Put up posters to circulate information to our community

Organized a discussion group

Circulated an online petition, which has received over 200 signatures

Met with the Tavistock times and put our views to the general public

Accessed documents from Land registry to establish ownership.

The community would like the parish council to acknowledge and agree....

That from historical knowledge the school field formed part of an agreement with Devon education board.

The school field was supplied to replace the section of the playpark taken for the construction of the turning circle by DEB

The school field and right of way was for children and community use out of school hours...

The community would like the PC to:

Investigate the lease between the school, Devon Education board and parish council

To establish what position the DCC hold on the closure of the field and right of way.

Investigate the possibility of the permissive path becoming a public right of way.

To work with the community and school towards a suitable agreement for all.

The community requests that the parish council facilitate a public meeting with representatives from the community ,PC,DCC,WDBC,and school governors.

I would like to read a few short notes from some of our young people.

Appendix 2:

**Letter to the Community of St Andrew's C of E maintained school.**

Over the last few weeks, we have received questions from the wider school community around the reasons and longevity of restricted access to the school grounds. It is clear there is a passion and a heritage for the school being a central part of the community. This has to be appreciated and valued. In this document we have tried to explain the reasons behind any changes, answer common concerns, and suggest options for moving forward. Hopefully you will understand that the length of the document reflects our listening and the desire to reach a way forward. We have considered views of all our stakeholders from those community members who contacted us along with parental views. It is structured around a central section of 'Frequently Asked Questions'.

**Background:**

- Following advice from the Devon Legal Team, the Diocese, Health and Safety and Safeguarding, we will no longer be able to allow 'free access' to the school site. However, we have a strong desire work with the community to develop 'controlled access.'
- The school and governing board have a duty of care regarding the safety and risk for all of those on the school site and the school site itself. Without supervision, we can't ensure the safety of all but yet would still remain accountable. The use of the site therefore, needs to be structured in a way that is safe for all. We cannot discharge our duty of care with signage alone.
- We have planned a further review with Health and Safety and the Safeguarding team in the Autumn Term 2021. The most recent Health and Safety review was satisfied for school use only. Work during the school holidays is part of our preparation for future controlled access.

**FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions.**

**1. What is meant by the term 'restricted' or 'controlled' access?**

Restricted or controlled access means where access is permitted through a nominated leader who would take responsibility as key holder to supervise a session e.g. Table Tennis club, Football, Field time etc. The nominated leader will then check, take responsibility for and close the site at agreed times with the school. The entrance and exit would be via the Modyford Walk gate. As currently, this could not take place during the school day, during breakfast/after school clubs or during holidays clubs during the school holidays as at these times, the site must be closed to safeguard children.

**2. Why have the gates been installed at the front and blue gates at the side? There is no mention of the need for added security in the most recent 2017 Ofsted report.**

Following a significant intruder incident in the school, security was reassessed by the Local Authority, Health and Safety, Safeguarding and the Diocese. There had already been plans to install increased security, but the safeguarding incident accelerated the process. Gates and an intercom system were installed following consultation and advice for the safety of all.

**3. How is the pool allowed to be open during the summer when a statement from the Governors has stated that further Health and Safety advice must be gained?**

The supervised pool sessions are run by the PTFA. The PTFA have received the appropriate resuscitation training. The PTFA have a Risk Assessment for the pool and site for these supervised sessions. The PTFA have signed as keyholders for these activities on the days that the caretaker can maintain the safety checks and chemicals for the pool. The PTFA are responsible for the opening/closing of the site and checking the facilities for safe use. The guidelines for pool use

were created by the PTFA/Health and Safety and are adhered to by the PTFA team just as they have been in previous years. The pool and field will be accessible for families who wish to use the pool. The Foundation playground area, other playgrounds and the sports surface are not permitted for use at this time.

#### **4. What has changed since the 1970s and since February 2020?**

Since the school was built, Safeguarding and Health and Safety procedures have changed. From much of the correspondence, this is appreciated but what has not been clear, is why there are changes from February 2020.

Following the 18 months of the pandemic, we have had the opportunity to reflect on all of our policies and procedures. We have also reflected on systems that have been in place for many years. We started asking the questions such as

- How do we ensure that that we fulfil our duty of care when we are not on site or delegated the responsibility to another?
- Is this still right for right now?
- Are we following the latest guidance?
- How do we Risk Assess for times the school is not open ....

We then consulted with Health and Safety, Safeguarding, the Diocese, Babcock, our Local Authority School Improvement Partner, National Association of Headteachers and the Devon Legal Team. We were strongly advised that our position or choice should be 'restricted' or 'controlled' access for nominated leaders/groups to supervise or no access at all.

#### **5. Is there a right of way through the school?**

There is a right of way through the school as shown on the title deeds and map. However, the right of way is assigned for the 'Trustees' and 'Title owners' and 'Occupiers.' The Trustees were the Vicar, Church Warden and Headteacher. They are now the Governing Board. The Occupier is the school. The Diocese are the owners of all of the land except for the field. The field is owned by Devon County Council who entrust the field to be used by the school as the Occupier. There is no other right of way or public right of way across the school site.

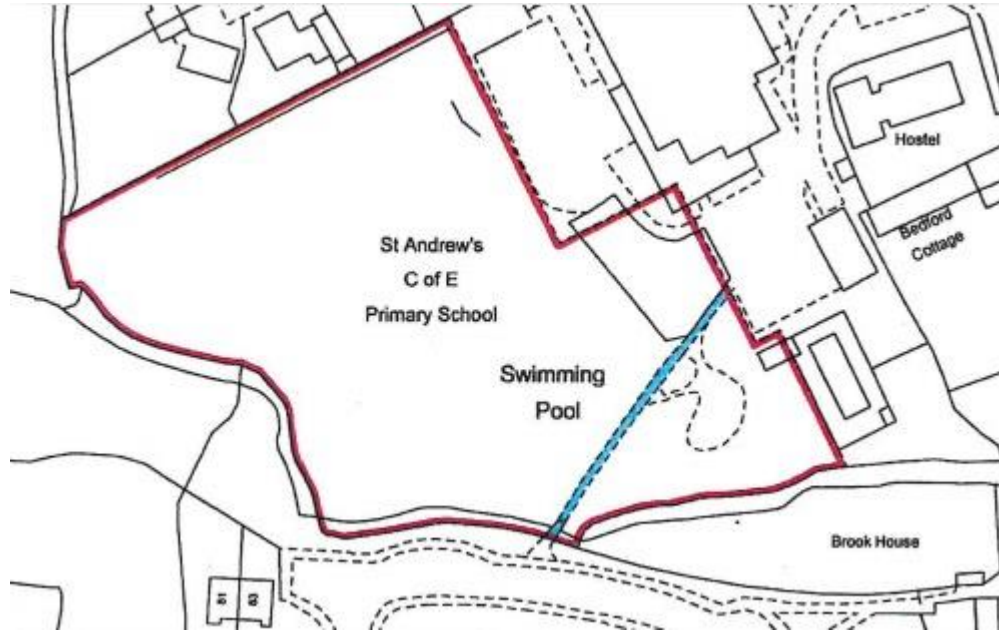
Title Number : DN511231

#### **C: Charges Register continued**

"TOGETHER WITH a right of way on foot for the Trustees and their successors in title owners and occupiers for the time being of the property hereby conveyed and all persons authorised by them in common with the Council and their successors in title the owner or owners for the time being of the land shown edged green on the said plan annexed hereto over the footpath edged blue on the said plan for the purpose of access to and egress from the property hereby conveyed".

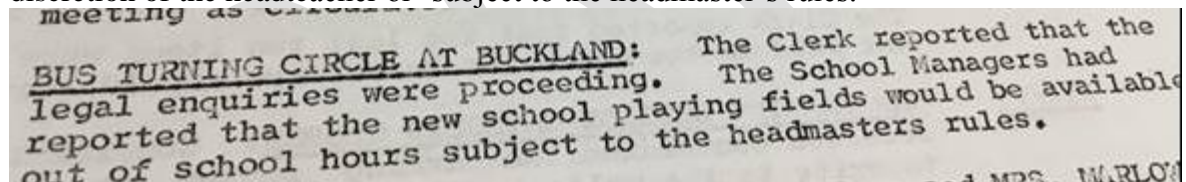
NOTE: The land edged green referred to comprises the land in this title. The footpath edged blue referred to is tinted blue on the title plan.





**6. Are the school allowed to occupy the field and control access?**

Following consultation with the Devon Legal team, the Devon Estates team and the Diocese, we have been told that there is not any recorded covenant or written agreement to say otherwise. The Parish Council minutes from when the school was built record that the field was used at the discretion of the headteacher or 'subject to the headmaster's rules.'



**7. Why have we not been included in the Duck Race or Fayres this year?**

The PTFA Duck Race and all Fayres were cancelled in 2020 due to Covid restrictions. In 2021, the Duck Race went ahead following our Risk Assessment as advised by the Local Authority and DfE. We have been operating in 'class bubbles' since Autumn 2020. The PTFA Duck Race was thoroughly enjoyed by the children in their bubbles but due to guidance around gatherings, we could not invite parents as we normally would. This has been true this year for all other events.

**8. Why did the school spend so much money on the grounds and outdoor classroom instead of investing in the grounds for community access?**

Learning, education and safeguarding of the pupils is at the heart of all decision making around expenditure and schools are held into account by Ofsted and the DfE.

**Outdoor classroom** - The outdoor classroom was funded by the PTFA and has been so valuable during the pandemic - providing a safe place for a class bubble to meet a visitor or learn in a well-ventilated area as advised by the DfE. The PTFA worked hard to fund and set this up. It is a vital resource for teaching, learning and the pupils. It has also provided a safe space for staff to meet at a distance where they have not been allowed to mix due to the restrictions.

**and equipment** - Schools have a duty to provide children with a minimum of 60 minutes exercise a day. This includes PE, daily mile, break and lunch time. Due to the fact that the field can't be used all year round, a sports surface was installed to ensure all year-round sport/PE/activities. The

sports premium grant was used for this installation and the equipment. Sports premium is ringfenced and can only be used for PE/Sport. It is designed for increasing pupil activity and exercise in school. Ofsted hold schools to account for how the funding is spent for the benefit of the pupils to improve the quality of provision of PE and daily activity.

'The PE and sport premium can help primary schools to achieve this aim, providing primary schools with £320m of government funding to make additional and sustainable improvements to the quality of the PE, physical activity and sport offered through their core budgets. It is allocated directly to schools so they have the flexibility to use it in the way that works best for their pupils.' <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pe-and-sport-premium-for-primary-schools>

#### **9. Why has the school been slow to communicate?**

The school has been operating in bubbles since March 2020 both inside and outside. To ensure safety of pupils and lessening the chances of transmission, bubbles have accessed different parts of the school at different times with thorough cleaning in between. As you are aware, we have had staff/children isolating and bubbles closures throughout the pandemic. Until the lifting of restrictions as part of Roadmap 4 was announced, we could not consider any kind of opening to the public or mixing of groups. We have also wanted to seek advice from various teams and gather the correct advice and documents. This has taken time.

#### **Moving forward**

Whilst free access to the Foundation area and other areas of the school site is not appropriate, we understand that a community group may wish to request to use the field which would be part of the controlled access plan. We wish to engage with community groups who may want to organise access in a safe way. For example, a nominated leader who wishes to run a Table Tennis club could become a key holder for the Modyford Walk gate.

Use of the school site during the holidays is also being explored through Active Devon and Fit and Fed programmes. There may be an opportunity to provide healthy meals and holiday clubs for those on Free School Meals or Disadvantaged. Support and for those families, where parents have to work throughout the holidays, is also being considered. Wrap around provision continues to be an important school offer through breakfast club, after school and holiday clubs.

For this Summer holiday, as we have stated, there will be controlled access to the swimming pool and field at supervised times during the first and last weeks which is also when the school caretaker can maintain the pool for safe use. Thank you to those who have volunteered to support. Please be aware there will be maintenance and improvement activities during some of the holiday. It is our intention to work more closely with the Parish Council to seek ways of achieving controlled access. We will be improving communication by providing the Parish Council with a termly update from the school and more frequently when significant events are planned. Again, we thank those who expressed their concerns in a passionate but constructive way.

This has been a very challenging and difficult time for all those involved with the school. I would like to reiterate my thanks to the parents/carers, school staff and wider supporters who have continued to put the children's welfare first, often at some personal sacrifice.

*'May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give us (all) the same attitude of mind toward each other that Jesus had..'* Rom 15:5