

Meeting with Aston Clinton Football Club and Aston Clinton Parish Council,
held on 7th March 2018 at 6.30pm
at Aston Clinton Parish Meeting Room

Present:

Councillors: -

L Tubb - Chairman

C Judge

P Wyatt

R Stewart

L Ronson

S Howard

C Read

J Egglesfield

ACFC Committee Members: I Middleton, V Cozens

Clerks: G Merry (recording) & E Barry

The football committee members presented their proposal to the parish council: -

- i. The team is currently at step 7 but would like to progress to step 6 and ultimately step 5 in their league. This would require floodlighting, a barrier to enclose the pitch and enable charging, if necessary. The barrier would not need to be high and could be encircled by a hedge to make it more ambient in the Park. The internal fence inside is to prevent pitch incursion of spectators. At the higher level the hedge will obscure the pitch to stop free viewings of matches
- ii. The preferred plan would entail moving the pitch to the area east of the tennis courts and included a clubhouse with changing rooms/showers as well as a spectator stand. Changing rooms needed to be a maximum of 25 metres from the pitch, so under this plan, the club would not be able to use the current changing rooms in the pavilion. They would also offer the changing and toilet facilities to the Tennis Club.
- iii. The stand would be a 50-seater stand for Step 6. Cllr Stewart asked whether the club could just continue to use the current changing rooms and Mrs Cozens confirmed they would need the new changing rooms in place in order to start playing in the new league. If the stand was not built initially, the club would seek a guarantee that they could install this in the future and would seek a minimum 10-year lease.
- iv. Mr Middleton felt there would be sufficient funding in the Berks and Bucks League fund for grassroots football and from the FA. The club planned to fund the build themselves and do not plan to ask the PC for funding. They do require permission in place though, in order to make the applications.
- v. Mr Middleton distributed plans - It was stated that the pitch size would be a minimum 100m x 75m but with the surround, this would be 110m x 75m of the park. For step 5, the pitch would need to be surrounded by hardstanding to comply with league rules, although for step 6, this would only need to be on 1 side and 1 end. The changing rooms needed to be a minimum of 18sqm to include male and female changing rooms and showers, as well as male

and female official's rooms. The proposed stand would be on the north side of the park, backing the houses and facing south.

- vi. Mrs Cozens circulated financial information for the project.

Cllr Ronson enquired who would do the excavation required if the proposal were to be agreed. She also pointed out that ground is slightly sloping. Mr Middleton stated that the FC would engage contractors. The single tree in that area would go but the club would offer to plant 10 trees in a location designated by the council. They were seeking to start work by the 2019 season.

Cllr Ronson expressed concern that if the FC do not get the funding or planning permission, the community centre would have already been planned, if not built. Mrs Cozens felt this would be a risk the FC would take. Cllr Eggesfield expressed concern that the plan effectively partitions a section of the park which would then be unavailable to the public. Cllr Tubb pointed out there are already precedents for this with the tennis club, bowls club and STP.

It was agreed that planning approval would be needed for the stand, floodlights and clubhouse/changing rooms but not for the pitch installation.

Cllr Tubb stressed to councillors that a decision would not be taken now and that councillors should consider the matter carefully. Also that all councillors should remember that they represent the village and all members of it and should not vote on their own personal preferences

It was suggested that an Extra Ordinary meeting be held to vote on this proposal, ahead of the community centre meeting on 20/3/18. The clerk advised that this would not give enough time for councillors to free their diaries to all attend such a meeting but would be willing to send a doodle poll to assess availability.

..... Chairman Date