

**DEMOCRATIC HALF HOUR
SUMMARY OF SPEECH NOTES READ TO COUNCILLORS AND RESIDENTS AT THE
PARISH COUNCIL MAIN COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24TH SEPTEMBER 2024
AUTHOR - ANNA DUNN**

(The Clerk has agreed to place these notes onto the website)

On July 27th I sent an email to the clerk at both her personal email address and the original email address for the parish council as at that time the original email address had not been changed. In it I said I had paid for the installation costs for the trampoline which the previous PC had agreed to pay this is £985.00 this has as yet not been reimbursed to FOCM.

On Thursday morning I received a letter from the chair on headed note paper which has no contact details on it. I find this totally bizarre and unprofessional for a PC trying to look professional it precludes any one not having access to a computer to get in touch. I just wonder if all of the council voted for this unprofessional note paper or even considered the implications for all of its residents ?

It is also an anomaly that the Parish Councils new logo on their letter heads says Established 1988 and yet the Grafton Bequest was gifted to the Parish Council in 1938 So which date is it ?

This is yet another fact checking exercise the New Parish Council in their rush to change everything that was there before have not used due diligence. In the letter from The Chair dated 19th August (but not sent until 19 September) The 1st Paragraph states "I am writing to let you know that Chideock Parish Council has convened its own Clapps Mead Management Team to take over the management and future direction of the Clapp's Mead Playing Fields and Play Area." I hasten to say you CANNOT do this as we already have a committee for the Management of Clapp's Mead Playing Field. I am one of them And more to the point none of its members or myself had been invited to that meeting (is this what you call open and transparent)

You also state "We are currently consulting with solicitors for a modern-day interpretation of the Grafton Clause that requires a roman catholic minister and vicar to be in attendance at our meetings, because, as you yourselves have found, it is very difficult to satisfy this Clause. In particular with regards to present day requirement of Health & Safety and Safeguarding."

We our selves have not found it very difficult to satisfy this clause and in fact I find your suggestion very patronising.

What Health & Safety and safe guarding are needed to be on a management committee and what gives you the right to suggest as you do in this letter that no one but this New Parish Council knows anything about Health and Safety and safe guarding as you have never asked? Yet again I find this attitude patronising.

As everyone knows a management committee manage and delegate. All the previous parish councils over the years have had no problem with complying with that clause. So exactly what is it this parish council do not understand with this clause to have to spend residents money on legal advice trying to prove a point ?

By the way The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) has published a guide for finance and transparency
NALC guidelines state

Local council funds are of course public money, much of which is raised through a precept or tax on local electors, therefore it is the responsibility of all councillors to understand and be pro-active guardians of council funds, ensuring their council complies with the various legislation and government codes, spending the money in accordance with the needs and aspirations of their local community.

Going back to the Grafton Bequest it states

C. Clauses defining the Obligations of the Council

1. The management of the premises to be in the hands of a committee of Management to be appointed by the Council such Committee to consist of members of the Council, The Church of England vicar of Chideock for the time being or in the case of his being unable or unwilling to act a person to be nominated by the Parochial Church Council and a person to be nominated by the owner for the time being of Chideock Manor if a Weld or in the event of the owner (being a Weld) being unable or unwilling to act a person representing the Roman Catholic residents in the Parish

The person now representing the Roman Catholic residents is Gaby Martelli who is a Weld and she has nominated me as the Roman Catholic Representative. Once again, this new Parish Council have not checked the facts.

So, what is so difficult to satisfy in that clause. I have been elected on to that committee and therefore any proposed changes / amendments should have to be notified to me AND I should have been invited to that meeting.

You also state "We have had our first Clapps Mead management meeting in August – the minutes are available" It seems to me yet again there is some confusion over what you think the remit for FOCM is You have stated

"ITWAS AGREED that prior to commencing any repair or maintenance work in the Clapps Mead Playing Field the FOCM should Liaise with the Parish Council" WHY
I have no idea why you have put that clause in ?

FOCM are a fundraising group they have never been involved with repair or maintenance and to me it just goes to show that the minutes of all previous meeting have not been read by any councillors or they would have read the details of FOCM.

They could have also asked but they of course chose not to.

The chair reminds everyone this is a new parish council - Not so new as you have now been in office for 5 months and yet I would say that you have no interest in familiarising yourselves with previous minutes or checking the facts. Something has to change.