



Clare Playing Fields Association

Cavendish Road, Clare, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 8PJ

Clare Town Council
The Old School
Callis Street
Clare
CO10 8PX

16th July 2017

Dear Cllr Bishop

We write to advise you that the Trustees of the Clare Playing Field Association are resigning from their positions on the Management Committee on Monday 7th August 2017. On that date the CPFA Charity Trust will be returned to the Town Council in its original non-CIO status.

We have undertaken significant work and carried great responsibility over the last four years, as the building has shown increasing signs of poor workmanship in the original build - including collapsing walls, falling light fittings and a broken and obsolete heating system. We have created up to date charity policies and procedures, and put in rigorous management systems to provide accountability and good governance. In spite of being pressurised by the building issues, we have completed many aspects of our challenging development plans and worked hard with others to raise funds to support the Trust. Most importantly, we have maintained good working relationships with the regular hirers, the football teams and monitoring agencies. However in recent years, we feel that we have been totally unsupported by a small and vocal group of interfering town councillors. We are all volunteers and should not be subjected to such behaviour.

The Town Council will be aware of the fact that Cllr Bob Verguson has deliberately campaigned to undermine the CPFA Trustees using offensive and vindictive emails. He has consistently breached the Code of Conduct and the Nolan Principles, and in spite of two letters from the Monitoring Officer, has refused to apologise for his actions. He shows scant regard for the standards required of Councillors, the laws laid down to protect charities and the basic principle



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that Councillors should treat others with respect. Additionally, he shows little understanding of the fact that the CPFA has protected the town and council from the possibility of the Football Foundation clawing back their grant of £186,000 – a risk for the next 18 years. Why should we, as parishioners, work with Town Councillors who display or condone such disgraceful conduct?

Cllr Verguson has persistently pushed for the Trust to be self-financing and unsupported by precept funding. In an email dated 16th October 2016, he boasted that if he took over the CPFA, he would 'turn things around and thereby in doing so relieve the burden on Clare residents'. Now is his opportunity to do so.

Yours sincerely

Gayle Mallows
Chairman

Georgina Lovejoy
Vice Chairman

cc. Cllr Mary Evans
Cllr Alaric Pugh
Leah Mickleborough