

Southrop Parish Council – 2/7/22

Dear Jerry and Leonard,

I'm writing to you as the Trustees of Jubilee Close ("JC") in connection with your recent requests for financial assistance from the Southrop Parish Council ("SPC") on insurance and an upgrade to title at JC. Our response to each request is set out below, together with a suggested way forward. Once you have been able to consider this, then we think it might be helpful to have a meeting to discuss matters before, we hope, reaching a satisfactory conclusion.

On the subject of payment for insurance:

We have explained our position to you previously and, after further consideration, our view has not changed. The SPC is not willing to pay the operating expenses for Jubilee Close, even though it has done in some previous years including, in particular, during Covid when other income was restricted. The documentation we have received from you does not change our view. Using your own funds to pay an operating expense is, in our opinion, the norm. We appreciate the issue for JC is lack of income; we address this below.

On the subject of JC payment of insurance potentially prejudicing donations/fundraising:

No other Southrop institution has, to our knowledge, raised such a concern and, so far as we're aware, the issue has not arisen. The VH, for example, routinely charges for room hire etc. and this seems in no way to prejudice its popularity, as evidenced by the Village Survey conducted a few years ago, which showed it is held in very high esteem.

We understand the JC itself receives an annual contribution from the school for grass cutting, which we understand is an amicable and longstanding arrangement.

On the subject of a potential grant from the SPC to Jubilee Close:

The SPC recognises the JC needs donations or further income in order to meet outgoings that are not met by its current income. For the JC to become more sustainable and independent it might help to develop a forward looking plan. The SPC is minded to grant JC a sum of up to £1,000 towards any costs of developing such a plan.

We see the plan as something that covers:

1. The current sports and building facilities into the future.
2. New sports and building facilities for the future.
3. A time horizon, with costings (eg. architect fees) and estimates for potential income.
4. Consideration of whether grants may be available to assist.
5. A management committee structure that would deliver such a plan.

The SPC would be delighted to receive your plan, as and when ready. Assuming a credible plan can be produced then the grant would be approved immediately and a programme considered for further grants in the future to support its delivery.

Southrop Parish Council – 2/7/22

We also wonder whether a survey of village opinion regarding JC facilities, now and into the future, might give you some ideas to input into the planning. As individuals we would be happy to help with that. We suspect the new young families currently rejuvenating Southrop would be keen to be involved!

As you consider your plan, it might be worthwhile engaging the Village Hall, who have mooted a further development for the hall (albeit planning was disrupted by Covid), to make sure your initiatives mesh together. We are unaware of their current thinking.

On the subject of the Land Registry:

The SPC understands the request, albeit it's unclear to us why the matter is deemed to be urgent. We would like you to consider:

1. Registering the land in the name of the charity "Jubilee Close" thereby obviating the need for changes to the Land Registry entries if there are trustee changes in future.
2. Ensuring there are no adverse impacts on the JC neighbours. In particular, our support would be conditional on no boundary disputes arising, since SPC could not be seen to be funding JC's legal costs if that were to occur

Subject to the above, SPC is prepared to support this initiative financially since it satisfies our preferred criteria as being a one-off payment which would bring a permanent benefit to the village.

We think the proposed legal fees of c. £600 seem reasonable and would, subject to a little further discussion, be prepared to fund at this level.

On the subject of the JC charity:

Thank you for the documentation. We recognise the accountability to appoint trustees rests with the SPC. Might you please clarify whether there is any documentation available on the number of trustees that can be appointed, and what you understand the process is if a change of trustee is required?

Finally, we hope we have considered all the various facets of your requests. If you wish to pursue our offer of financial support then we also ask that you send us the last 5 years of financial records showing income, outgoings, and reserves, in order that the situation of the JC is clear to us and kept as part of our grant records.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Guest

Chairman

Southrop Parish Council