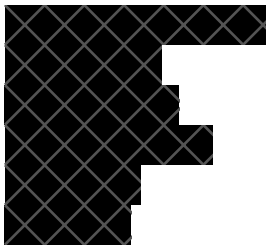


## **BRADFORD ABBAS PARISH COUNCIL**

**3 Churchwell Lane, Bradford Abbas, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 6RQ**

**Tel: 01935 473833 Email: [bradfordabbas@dorset-aptc.gov.uk](mailto:bradfordabbas@dorset-aptc.gov.uk)**

**[www.bradford-abbas.uk](http://www.bradford-abbas.uk)**



Friday, 25 June 2021

Dear 

On July 6th the village holds its Annual Parish Meeting. The meeting is open to all electors of the Parish, who have the right not only to attend but also to speak on any matter of local interest. This is in contrast to a Council meeting, where electors who are not Councillors have no automatic right to speak.

We are certain that a major topic at the meeting will be the fencing in Gollop's Ground. The Parish Council are preparing to talk about this issue and how it has been working with you to try to resolve it by taking responsibility for the land, and so we would appreciate the courtesy of your timely response to our letters, particularly the proposal we outlined in our letter of June 3rd.

We are still of the opinion that by passing the responsibility of the land to the Parish Council you will be successfully addressing the two concerns that led you to erect the fencing you stated when Councillors met with you on 24th May, namely:

- Liability for accident and injury to people using the land
- Viability of the hay contaminated by dog poo

You will be in no doubt about both

- the historical use of the land being used as of right for lawful sports and pastimes since at least the 19th Century
- the value that the community puts on Gollop's Ground as part of the village's identity

You will be aware, then, of just what a significant act of good you could do by continuing to work with the Parish Council to resolve this issue to the benefit of the community in which

you have chosen to live, and of which you are a part. Conversely you will be aware that, by letting things drift, you will be perpetuating significant hurt in the Parish. The Parish Council's responsibility is to act for the benefit of *all* the community to arrive at a satisfactory outcome.

We have put up a couple of pages on the Parish Council website in which we have

- Summarised the historical use of the land being used as of right for lawful sports and pastimes since at least the 19th Century
- Outlined the case for having Gollop's Ground designated a Village Green under the Commons Act 2006 (amended 2016) for perpetuity, to avoid future generations of Parishioners s being denied access to its amenities.
- Published this and previous (redacted) letters to you (and any replies that you may have sent)
- Summarised - in a timeline - various circumstances which may caught you unawares and may have led to this unfortunate situation.

(Go to [https://bradford-abbas.uk/document/gollops\\_ground\\_enclosure](https://bradford-abbas.uk/document/gollops_ground_enclosure) or use the *Supporting Documents* menu item)

Yours sincerely,

Lynne Bennett: Chair, Bradford Abbas Parish Council

Iain Houston: Vice Chair, Bradford Abbas Parish Council