

BUCKLAND MONACHORUM PARISH COUNCIL

5 Hillside Close, Buckland Monachorum, Devon, PL20 7EQ

Tel: 01822 855889 • Email: clerk@bmpc.info • Website: www.bmpc.info

Clerk: Mrs Katharine Griffiths

To: The Chair of Governors and Governors,
St Andrews C of E Primary,
Buckland Monachorum,
Yelverton,
Devon,
PL20 7NA
By email.

9th May 2022

Dear Martin,

I write further to ongoing discussions concerning the use of the school grounds by the community outside of the school day.

Proposal to allow public access to the school field

In order to provide a solution to the current issue over public use of the school field, a proposal has been made to erect a fence which, when secured, would (a) enhance the physical security of the school by providing a barrier on the western border where none currently exists and (b) give access to the field without providing access to the school.

In the proposal, the 'field' is the portion of the land on the western side of the school as indicated by the Land Registry record (see fig 1). The 'school' is the portion of land which encloses the school and its outdoor facilities (such as the swimming pool / MUGA etc) but excludes the field. The 'fence' is a physical barrier, which when secured, prevents access from the field to the school. Where exactly to put the fence would be a matter for discussion; this proposal is simply to attempt to establish the principle. Likewise, the design of the fence and specific details of gates allowing access from/to the school and the field is a secondary issue to be discussed once /if the principle is accepted.

The proposal also makes the assumption that the field is recognised as public land but arrangements, as detailed below, are made for the school to have exclusive use of it when the school is operational.

Concept of Operation

There are two 'states' of school operation; 'open' and 'closed'. The 'open' state is when the school is functioning, and pupils and staff are in the school and both the school and the field are available for the exclusive use of the school. While this would primarily be 'normal school opening hours' it is recognised that the school may be 'open' outside normal school hours and need use of the field. In the 'open' state, it is important to control access to the school so if the gates between the school and the field need to be open, access to both the school and the field would be controlled (as is the case currently) by the school shutting and locking the access current access points. If the field was not required by the school, the fence could be secured and access to the field permitted.

When the school is 'closed' and neither pupils nor staff are on the premises, the school would be secured (front gates and access points through the fence shut and locked). The access point from Modyford Walk would be open and the public would have access to the field but not the school.

The status of the field would be 'public land' and, like the play park in the village which the school uses, the school would need to satisfy itself that the field was a safe environment when they chose to use it. As there is open access to the field currently (across the stream) it is assumed that the school does this anyway.

Finally, a fence which controls access from the field to the school offers enhanced security to the school property and presumably this would be welcomed by the school.

The Parish Council politely request a response by Friday 20th May.

If you require any further information, then please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours sincerely



Katharine Griffiths
Parish Clerk