

**Commons Act 2006 – Sections 15(1) and (2)**

**Application to Register Land as Town or Village Green – Northfield Playing Field, Winsley**

**Appendix 14 – Witness Evidence of Maintenance by Parish Council**

<b>Witness</b>	<b>Date of Correspondence</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
P Bennett	26/02/2021	<i>During my time as Chair of Winsley Parish Council 2011 – 2016) the Council paid for regular maintenance of the area as an amenity for local residents. The Council was continuing a long-standing practice and as such accepted responsibility for the area on behalf of the residents of the Parish. It had always been assumed to be a local resource and the Council willingly undertook its upkeep.”</i>
B Sheff	Correspondence undated with Application Exhibit G	<i>I was Clerk for Winsley Parish Council between 2008 and 2011. During this time we hired a contractor to regularly cut the grass and generally maintain the land. The land was used during this period as a playing field for the residents of Winsley.</i>
K Sparrowhawk	06/07/2020	<i>To Winsley Parish Council: I am writing to request that the football goalpost that already exists at the end on Northfields should be replaced and if at all possible that another goal should be erected at the opposite end of the field please...We feel very fortunate to have had this wonderful area to play in, and we are very grateful for your ongoing care and maintenance of it...</i>
D Mandeville-Shaw	27/02/2021	<i>I was not aware that the field was in private ownership, believing that it was held in trust for community usage. As a long-time serving Clerk to the Parish Council from 2000 to 2005 and later as an elected councillor and subsequently Chairman of the Council, I was aware that the field was always in use as a community asset for the use of children and youths for informal games. The Parish Council was asked to consider adapting the field for usage as a skateboard park or a BMX tack and observations and objections were addressed to the Council from residents, but never to my knowledge from anyone claiming ownership. I am no longer a serving member of the Parish Council but I am aware that the maintenance of the field and enhancement with seating and new goalposts has been agreed and funded by the Parish Council to the delight and approval of village youth and local residents too.</i>
B Hughes	27/02/2021	<i>(Parish Clerk until 2008) I recall that in that role I sought tenders for grass cutting which specifically would have included a) the Northfield play area and b) the grassed/planted area at the end of Northfield.</i>

		<i>In more general terms having lived here since 1994, I can confirm that the Northfield play area has always been available for recreational use and I have seen youngsters playing there and therefore I regard it as public space.</i>
M Denbury	23/03/2021	<i>As this land has been maintained by Wiltshire County Council and Winsley Parish Council we were very surprised to learn that it was not owned by Winsley Parish Council and could be lost.” Provides correspondence dated 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1983 ref local objections to the proposed Route C for the bypass, one of the reasons being “The childrens’ playing field at the north end of Northfield (one of only two in the village) would be lost...The route does considerable environmental damage to the village, coming much too close to several houses and taking away one of only two playing fields”.</i>
R Davies	18/03/2021	<i>Certainly, there was no sign asserting continued ownership by the original developers, it having been in practice a community facility for getting on for 40 or so years and indeed it having been maintained by the parish council throughout that time.</i>
J and C Baker	21/12/2021	<i>NPF has been constantly maintained by the council with the grass cut regularly.</i>
John Barnes	08/12/2021	<i>The only interest ever shown in this land has been by residents and the local Parish Council, the latter having maintained it by grass cutting and putting in goal posts.</i>
Clive Bolshaw	30/11/2021	<i>...it did not occur to local residents that that the playing field, which has been well maintained by the parish council over all the years of its existence (and which is in a Green Belt!) was not under the formal control of the parish council.</i>
K and S Cole	29/12/2021	<i>The Parish Council has cut the grass and maintained the area to a high standard. Last year saw the provision of replacement goal posts, which made the facility even more attractive to young people...</i>
G and J Connor	17/12/2021	<i>It was good to see that the Parish Council took the steps to replace the Goal Posts and were in the process of putting in some seats...We found it rather strange that the land was not actually owned by the PC and they have maintained it ever since we lived here.</i>
D and M Cottrell	02/12/2021	<i>It has always been understood by Winsley residents that this was an area intended for their use as part of the parish with the Parish Council maintaining the grounds.</i>
R & S Davies	14/02/2022	<i>I was on the Parish Council until the expiry of my second term at the time of the last election cycle...Like everyone</i>

		<i>here I was amazed to find that it was not officially designated as an area for use by the public as of right but was still owned by the original developer of the Tynning Road Estate and liable to be sold and public access withdrawn at any time.</i>
D Deal	13/02/2022	<i>I know that at some time, probably in the late 1980's, there was a plan to erect a skate park on the land although it never went ahead.</i>
D, J, B and E Forbes	01/12/2021	<i>Quite recently the Winsley Parish Council invested good money into goal posts for the field (to replace the dilapidated one) and they have helped maintain its upkeep for many years...it seems clear that it came as a bit of a surprise to many when the land was put up for sale. At the least it was confusing for most residents given the amount of community use over a long period of time.</i>
T Hogan and Family	04/12/2021	<i>...we moved here in 1999...During this time, the field, to the best of my knowledge, has been maintained by the Parish Council (Grass cutting, goal repairs, pest control etc).</i>
B & R Hughes	31/12/2021	<i>...the Parish Council has paid for contractors to mow the grass many times a year.</i>
S J Hughes	11/11/2021	<i>The Northfield field has been used by Winsley residents for play and recreation for over 60 years. It has been maintained for this purpose by Winsley Parish Council all this time. Football goals are installed on the field and have been in place for many, many years (for the 14 years I have lived here and I believe for many years before that) and have been recently replaced by the parish due to the demand of local children using the field.</i>
Cllr J Kidney, Wiltshire Councillor for Winsley and Westwood	29/12/2021	<i>Winsley Parish Council has tended to the playing years [sic] for many years, keeping the grass cut so young people could play sport. A goalpost was erected sometime in the 1970's, and a couple of years ago some children in the village wrote to the Parish Council asking if the old rusting post could be replaced with new goalposts. In response, the Parish Council invested in a new set of goalposts for the playing field. No-one apart from the local community and the Parish Council has shown any interest in the land for decades.</i>
K Ladner	03/12/2021	<i>The local (parish) council has maintained this land for decades and has recently invested significant sums to renew the goal posts and install seating.</i>
T Lerwill	29/11/2021	<i>My family have been using the above playing field for lawful sport and recreation since we moved into the village in 2017. I had always thought it was already a public area, with goal posts installed and the grass being maintained.</i>

C & G Pearce	01/12/2021	<i>It has always been kept in a very tidy condition, now it is getting overgrown and neglected.</i>
D Rickard	30/12/2021	<i>Recently the Parish Council installed two new football goals with nets on the ground and were hoping to put a bench there as well!</i>
J Schweizer	06/12/2021	<i>It has been regularly maintained by the Parish Council during this time.</i>
D Schweizer	Correspondence undated with Application Exhibit G	<i>(Moved to Winsley March 1979) The Parish Council managed the area on a day to day basis, who from quite early on, had erected a single set of Goal posts. It is my recollection that the grass was always maintained by the District Council, and that the Parish Council was not invoiced for this work, it may have been included in the charges for cutting grass on the White Horse Road Recreation Area. However, it is my understanding that the grass was part of the District Council's Planning Consent agreement with the County Council to maintain all grass adjacent to the Public Highways on the Tying Road estate. I assume that this commitment was transferred to the new Unitary Authority.</i>
R Smith	27/02/2021	<i>The original planning application for the Tying estate, including Northfield is dated 13/03/1964 application number 120. The planning includes an allocation of recreational spaces, which the land at Northfield is part of. The Parish must have an agreement to use this land, as we have maintained it well over the years frequently replacing the play equipment.</i>
J Strike	08/11/2021	<i>I spearheaded the initial fundraiser to purchase the land in March and managed to raise over £17,000 in less than 9 days with the rest of the community, which is testament to its importance to local people.</i>
B Wilson	19/12/2021	<i>It was left as a facility for the village when the new estate was built and should be left as such.</i>
S Winter- Alsop	02/12/2021	<i>The whole community has used this part of Northfield as a playing field and the parish council has even erected a football goal so children in the village can continue to enjoy the land as my friends and I have done so. I believe the grass has been maintained by the community and the parish council.</i>
H P Jones	12/05/2021	<i>Only a short while ago, it seems, there was mention made in the Parish Council meeting minutes of the possibility of a seat or seats being put up in the area now under discussion, which was, I thought, an admirable plan. Then only a month or so later came the notice of the sale of the plot of land between the playing field and the by-pass and the</i>

		<i>impossibility of that piece of land being afforded by the Parish Council.</i>
--	--	--