



Mrs. Julie Shirley
Clerk to the Council

Hunts Grove Parish Council
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21st December 2021

Recipients:

To: Ralph Hawkins – Crest Nicholson
Gareth Hawke - Crest Nicholson
Mark Heywood - Colethrop Farm Ltd
John Chaplin – Stroud District Council

cc: Siobhan Baillie MP
Lucie Brailsford - Crest/Seaxburh
Gill Oxley - Stroud District Council
Michael Towson - Stroud District Council
Rozelle Jachowicz - Stroud District Council
Stephen Davies – Gloucestershire County Council

Ref: Management of Hunts Grove Public Spaces & Amenities

I wanted to take this opportunity to formally advise that it is the desire and intention of Hunts Grove Parish Council to enter in to negotiations to take over the role and responsibilities of Hunts Grove Management Company Limited. This decision was a unanimous vote at the council's 8th November 2021 meeting.

All councillors strongly believe that all Hunts Grove residents should be treated equally and that open spaces and amenities should be managed within the scope of the existing taxation of Council Tax, in the same way all surrounding communities are maintained.

The overwhelming mandate from residents at the 2019 community governance review highlighted this as a major factor for support in forming the new parish council.

It is clear that the parish precept will need to increase in the future to cover the maintenance expenditure, however as the democratically elected first tier of government run by officers and volunteers, we know that the parish council will offer residents savings every year over the substantial "admin" fees charged by the "for-profit" managing agent. The parish will seek to abolish the service charge payments at the earliest possibility and secure the reserve fund contributions for the long-term benefit of the community.

The council takes its responsibilities seriously and has committed to a substantially increased budget for 2022 that enables it to prepare for adoption of Phase 1 of the development. This was resolved by council at its meeting on 13th December 2021.

At the roundtable meeting called by our MP Siobhan Baillie on 21st December, I was pleased at the broad agreement of those present towards the aims of the parish council and especially the full support of the landowner Colethrop Farm Ltd who would be delighted for the parish council to take on the long-term stewardship of the village.

The final piece of the puzzle is for the developer Crest Nicholson to engage with all stakeholders to effect the changes so obviously now necessary. It is disappointing that the meeting called for by Siobhan Baillie MP was rescheduled from November specifically at the request of Crest Nicholson, and yet **they failed to turn up**.

Yours sincerely



Mark A. Ryder
Chairman of Hunts Grove Parish Council

Crest Nicholson would like it known that technical issues prevented them joining this Zoom meeting.

HGPC Note:
At the start of the call, when it was obvious that Crest had not joined the Zoom meeting, the organiser contacted Crest to check any issues.

Crest fed back to the meeting that they had thought “this was an optional meeting”. After that, the meeting was further updated that Crest were then trying to join the call but was having technical difficulties.

HGPC is puzzled why Crest would consider the meeting “optional” when the original meeting of November was postponed at their request and rescheduled together with them for 21st December.