

# Dorney Parish Council

Ms Ruth Senior  
Parish Clerk

Email:  
clerk@dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk



3 Opendale Road  
Burnham  
SL1 7LY

18<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Leanne Kittel, Chair Person, Dorney Playground Management Group (Registered Charity No. 1131683)

Dear Leanne,

**Re: Dorney Playground Management Group (Registered Charity No. 1131683)**

Dorney Parish Council is in receipt of your email sent to the Parish Clerk on 1st November 2021.

We have carefully researched the setting up of the Dorney Playground Management Group Charity (No. 1131683) and draw your attention to the following:

The advertisement to which you refer ran in the June and July 2008 editions of Dorney Parish News. The contents of which were:

**“VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PLAY AREA PLANNING GROUP**

**A resident has suggested that a PLAY AREA be provided for younger children. The Parish Council has agreed to set up an independent working party to advise the council on what is required, where it should be located, and how it can be funded & maintained.**

**If you would like to be involved, please contact the Parish Clerk phone: 01753 655331”**

The Dorney Parish Council minutes of September 2009 confirmed:

*The Council resolved to support the installation of a playground on Trumpers Field, to be managed by “Charity Play4Dorney”. This organisation is fully independent of the Parish Council and is fully responsible for all costs, including maintenance, inspection, insurance and repairs.*

The charity was registered with the Charity Commission on 17th September 2009. Whilst the Parish Council were supportive of the setting up of the project it was agreed by all parties that there would be no direct involvement by the Council at any time apart from the initial assistance in setting up the “independent working party”.

Dorney Parish Council discussed your email at our meeting last night and, based on that discussion, the Parish Council made the following points:

- Given the above facts, it is clear that the playground cannot simply be “handed back” to the Parish Council, as we agreed at the time that we were not the best organisation to take it forward and we have never been responsible for it. That position has not changed.
- Dorney Parish Council understands that, according to the Charity Commission, the responsibilities of charity trustees include, amongst other things, getting the resources the charity needs (e.g. trustees and funds), having and following appropriate controls and procedures, managing risks and protecting assets and people.

- It is unclear from your email as to the reason for the resignation of all of the current trustees, but it is very clearly the responsibility of the charity to find new trustees and any necessary funding going forward.
- The Parish Council has always been supportive of the Playground and will continue to be so. It is understood that most charities were seriously impacted by the pandemic, and it was encouraging to see the funding the charity obtained in November 2020 from the Beeches Community Board for repairs to the playground equipment following lack of maintenance and vandalism during the Covid-19 lockdown.

Dorney Parish Council wishes the charity every success in both recruiting new trustees and continuing to secure funding for the future. The playground has been a great success and much appreciated by children (and parents) both from Dorney and those outside of Dorney.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Ruth Senior  
Clerk to Dorney Parish Council