

## My statement for the village meeting from Friends of Clapps Mead

In 2022 I formed FOCM, with the help of Lyn Crisp and one other to start fundraising to help the then Parish council, raise funds for new play equipment for the play area.

A number of annual activities took place, organised and helped by several local volunteers. This included fetes, classic car shows, cream teas and stalls for the Christmas fare, then a raffle of a hamper. This was on the basis that Parish council funds are limited and the use of the precept always needs to be carefully managed.

All of this activity including the Friends of Clapps mead, the playing field volunteers and the management committee required by the Grafton request, were all suspended by the new parish council in August of last year.

So WHY did this happen?

I shall explain

The in ground jumper was bought in September 2023 but due to the wet weather could not be installed until May of 2024

This was when the new unelected parish council came on to the scene. I then had a letter in August from the then chair this letter stated the in ground jumper was being covered over because it could be used for trampolining and gymnastics which of course is impossible

They could not get insurance for this piece of equipment

Even though it had been insured by the previous council

They also stated that previous events we held had been un - insured.

1. First of all, the parish council would not accept that the Parish council insurance by Hiscox covered public liability for community events and volunteers organised by the Parish council. The facts are that the insurance covered all of the events previously held and this is included in the schedule. Of which I have a copy if anyone wants to see it.

2. Second, the Parish council disputed that the inground jumper could be insured because they claimed it was high risk, based on their perception that it could be used for trampolining and gymnastics. It was further stated that it had not been installed correctly and that the installer had not been ROSPA trained. And no installation certificate

They also wanted to insure the piece of equipment as a stand alone policy  
The said in ground jumper meets the UK safety standards .

3. These unfortunate and sad interpretations by the Parish council,

were based on the incorrect facts that they provided to the insurer, which then led the Parish council to determine that the inground jumper could not be insured.

This is an in-ground jumper installed by a registered installer

It has an installation certificate

It has the UK safety standard

It is impossible for this in ground jumper to be used for trampolining or gymnastics .

4. Throughout the period of the last ten months, the FOCM has sought to provide both the actual evidence and to qualify the interpretation placed on the insurance and the inground jumper to the Parish council, but to no avail.

5. Sadly, this led to the FOCM, feeling extremely frustrated but determined to prove that the matter had been appropriately project managed by the previous parish council, that the voices of the children in the village who had stated they wished to have an inground jumper would not be denied, and that all of those professionals who had been disrespected including the clerk, Bridport town council, the suppliers, the installers were proven to have acted appropriately.

6. We now have the factual proof including from ROSPA and the national trade association of installers that this type of inground jumper is considered low risk and is not suitable for gymnastics or any type of sporting events such as trampolining or gymnastics In addition, if this information had been shared with the insurers at the time by the Parish council last year, then it highly unlikely that insurers would have refused.

I will now read out the statement from the installers of play ground equipment which has been brought about from this parish councils instance of it being uninsurable.

As they say, "It's not what you say, but it's the way that you say it ".

I would like to give thanks to all those supporters in the village who have continued to support the position of the FOCM, this has been a long and difficult journey, which is currently not yet over until insurance has been put in place, there is both a public apology to all of the partners involved and a reinstatement of the Grafton bequests management committee. Clapp's mead is held in trust by the Parish council, and it requires a working partnership which understands that raising funds to support its continuing use and development takes place.

It is for these reasons there have been no events In the Clapps mead field

**this last year, which was bequeathed to the village by the Grafton family for the enjoyment of the village.**

**If we are to return to the values of bequest, which is about the enjoyment of the village, I would suggest that those members of the current PC who have taken an intransigent and dogmatic approach to this matter, should now consider their position on this unelected parish council, so those who want to support the village moving forward, can do just that.**

**Anna Dunn**

**Chair of Friends of Clapps Mead**