

**PARISH COUNCIL STATEMENT  
ROSE COTTAGE, KNOSSINGTON**

As many parishioners are aware, there has been an ongoing dispute between the Parish Council (as owner of the playing field) and Mrs G Heathcott-Ball (owner of Rose Cottage).

The matter has been particularly sensitive; it has taken many months and, unfortunately, a period of legal action to achieve a solution.

In order to resolve matters, the parties have recently signed a legally binding document which effectively settles matters on agreed terms. As is standard practice with these types of agreements, the document contains a provision that obligates the parties to keep the specific terms of the agreement strictly confidential. We can, however, confirm that the matter has been concluded and we have finally been able to draw a line under what has been a particularly difficult situation for all involved.

As you will be aware, a new fence has been erected between the respective properties and contractors have constructed a new gate into the playing field.

Both parties were encouraged to mediate in order to try to resolve the dispute before the matter came to Court. Whilst neither party is particularly happy with the settlement reached, the Parish Council is mindful that a resolution has been achieved without the need for a potentially lengthy Court case, where the outcome would have been difficult to predict.

In terms of fees and expenses, the Parish Council can report that this matter has cost the parish in the region of £2,500 in total. All other fees were insured.

Unfortunately disputes with parishioners do arise from time to time and the Parish Council are committed to dealing with such issues in good faith on a fair and prudent basis and in the interests of those involved and the parish.

Whilst the Parish Council welcome transparency and open communication, there are certain situations where the legal position prevents the Parish Council from sharing information with our parishioners on a fully open basis, such as the specific details of the settlement – which the Parish Council hope you understand.

However, if you do have any specific questions or concerns, please do contact [clerk@knossingtonandcoldovertonpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@knossingtonandcoldovertonpc.org.uk) and the Parish Council will do its best to respond as fully as possible.

**This statement was approved at the Parish Council meeting held on 19 June 2019.**