

RCC Contract Termination Q&A

Q: Why is the Parish Council terminating the contract with Rowledge Cricket Club (RCC)?

A: Hampshire County Council Legal Services have advised us that the existing Agreement is no longer fit for purpose, and must be brought into alignment with our contracts with other sports clubs, to become a Licence to Occupy. This format has been accepted and agreed without issue with the rest of the sports clubs that use the Recreation Ground.

Q: Have you offered Rowledge Cricket Club a new contract?

A: Yes. We have sought to reflect the current working arrangements in the new Licence, ensuring that these arrangements, along with the roles and responsibilities of both parties, are clearly defined in writing.

Q: Why have you terminated the current contract now?

RCC have maintained that they are happy with the current contract, but BPC is unable to support the current terms given the legal advice it has received. Negotiations on a new contract have been taking place for over a year; therefore BPC have set a deadline of the end of September 2025 to complete the negotiations.

Q: Will BPC be putting up the price up? Why?

A: BPC has flagged to RCC since discussions on a new contract begun that our costs have risen substantially above inflation and that prices will need to rise. The existing contract has been in place for over a decade and the price no longer reflects the costs incurred to provide the facilities used by RCC.

BPC believes we should use some of the precept (the part of your council tax allotted to BPC) to partially subsidise sport at the recreation ground for the community. But there should be a fair contribution from sports clubs that reflects the services and facilities the Parish Council provides and provide fairness to taxpayers. The price we have suggested will still result in cricket (as with other sports) being partially subsidised by the precept and will enable us to further invest in equipment and facilities.

Q: Can you give an example of the costs included in the price of the cricket contract at the Rec?

A: A contribution towards:

- Mowing the outfield several extra times in a year to enable the outfield to meet ECB League standards
- Utilities in the pavilion and particularly the cost of water to irrigate the cricket square and outfield.
- Upkeep, maintenance or repair of the pavilion
- All the ground care equipment and other cricket related equipment such as covers, sightscreens and nets are owned by the Parish Council. We need to continue to build a fund for replacing equipment when it gets to the end of its life. Over the last few years we have invested substantial sums in the containers to store ground care equipment, cricket nets, and mowers.
- Administration costs, including liaising with groundsmen, coordinating cricket fixtures with other activities at the Rec and pavilion, ordering ground care materials, liaising with suppliers, invoicing and payments.

- Utilities and insurance are a significant proportion of the council's overall budget, and these costs have risen more than headline inflation.

Q: Does the Parish Council want sport played in the Rec?

A: BPC actively encourages and wants sports played on the Rec, including cricket- it is a vital part of our community. Our aim is to ensure that our contracts are up-to-date and that the costs of hosting sport at the Rec are shared fairly between the clubs and taxpayers.

Q: What is the contract termination notice period?

A: Three years. If RCC do not wish to enter a new agreement, then they can continue to play at the Rec for three years from the termination date.

Q: What will the impact be on Binsted Cricket Club (BCC)?

A: If RCC do not wish to sign a new contract, the Parish Council is committed to working with BCC to find alternative solutions and potentially new partners to maintain the facility to ensure that cricket will continue to be played.

Q: Is BPC also asking Binsted Cricket Club to agree a contract. Why? Is the Parish Council charging twice to cover its costs?

Hampshire County Council Legal Services have stated that all sports clubs using the Recreation Ground are required to have a Licence to Occupy. Under the existing terms with RCC, Binsted Cricket Club have no specific rights to use the facility- rather it is at the discretion of RCC. Under our plans we wish to ensure that BCC has the right to play at the Rec put in writing.

The new contract BPC has drafted enables existing arrangements between the two clubs to continue- agreeing fixture schedules, and BCC contributing towards RCC's costs of maintaining the square.

BCC does not currently pay anything directly to BPC for use of the facility. Under the new plans, BCC would continue to pay RCC for the costs they incur maintaining the square, and we will ask BCC to make a modest contribution towards the use of the pavilion and associated facilities.

BPC are not double charging- the contract price for both clubs has been looked at in tandem to ensure that the overall costs to the parish are fair to both the clubs and to taxpayers.