

Dear Villager,

The Community Council is aware of the considerable discussion within the village concerning the lease of the Sports Club and wishes to provide clarification regarding its position and the process that has been followed.

As many Fintry residents will be aware, the Community Council is the legal landlord of the land upon which the Sports Club is situated. This land was gifted to the people of Fintry by Lady Ruth Menzies nephew Hercules Robertson in her memory the 1970s for the purpose of providing sporting and recreational facilities for the children of the village and the wider community. The Community Council has a continuing duty to protect this community asset and to ensure that it is managed in a manner consistent with the intentions of the original benefactor, and for the benefit of both current and future generations.

The Community Council was approached by the Sports Club with a request to vary the existing lease to facilitate a change in the Club's legal structure. The purpose of this change was to transfer legal and financial liability from individual committee members to an incorporated legal entity. The Community Council recognised the rationale for this request and gave it careful and detailed consideration.

In fulfilling its responsibilities as landlord of this community asset, the Community Council sought independent professional advice before reaching any decision. Advice was obtained from the Community Council's solicitor, the Law Society of Scotland, Stirling Council, and the Scottish Government to ensure that any revised lease would be legally robust, appropriate, and in the best interests of the community.

Having considered the advice received, together with its legal and fiduciary responsibilities, the Community Council resolved to offer the Sports Club a new lease for a term of twenty-five years at a peppercorn rent of £10 per annum. The proposed lease also provides for a formal review after fifteen years, at which time the parties may consider a further extension, subject to the terms and conditions of the lease continuing to be met.

This decision has been reached following a thorough and transparent process, informed by independent legal advice. The Community Council believes that the proposed lease strikes an appropriate balance between supporting the long-term future of the Sports Club and fulfilling its duty to safeguard a valuable community asset. The Community Council believes this approach is consistent with the intentions of Lady Ruth Menzies nephew Hercules Robertson when the land was gifted for the benefit of the people of Fintry and helps ensure that those intentions continue to be honoured for generations to come.

Kind regards
Fintry Community Council