

Extra Ordinary Meeting February 28th 2017

Chairman's Statement

I have called this meeting for the Council to consider an offer from a telecoms developer "Shared Access Telecoms" to install a mast on Arnside Playing field.

The Company originally contacted the Tennis Club to make an offer of improving the floodlighting and using one of the uprights as a mast. This is something they are doing with other sports clubs around the country.

The Council were not opposed to this in principle and gave permission for further discussions with Cllr Kirkham acting as a representative. The Council can see that there is need for improved mobile phone coverage in Arnside.

The company would manage a consultation with local people and the development would have to go through the normal planning procedures. They have visited the site and drawn up plans of the proposed mast.

The playing field is however there for the use and enjoyment of other sports clubs as well as for children using the playground. The Council therefore decided at its last meeting that it would like any benefit from having a mast to be shared more widely than just one of the clubs.

Discussions are now underway with the company for the development of a mast without the floodlights. Any money raised by the Council in this way could be spread more widely to the benefit of all playing field users.

The Council has a duty to ensure "value for money" for the people of Arnside and therefore has sought professional advice on this matter. The details of the offer are at this point confidential and so I am asking the Council to exclude members of the public whilst they are discussed. Final arrangements will be made public as per our financial regulations.

If any members of the public wish to make any initial comments they may do so in the following public section