

PARK & RECREATION COMMITTEE



Agenda Item: Cricket Fees

Meeting Date: 12th May 2025

Contact Officer: Operations Manager

Background

At the meeting of the Committee on 13th January 2025, Members were updated on the progress of the lease agreement with Witney Swifts Cricket Club. Members requested details of the costs incurred by the Council associated with the cricket provision at West Witney Sports Ground.

Current Situation

In November 2022 the Operations Manager completed a piece of work for the West Oxfordshire District Council for their playing pitch strategy around the cost of maintaining sports pitches, below is the updated costing for a cricket square and outfield.

| Process | Time | Fuel 1.4ltr/H | Fuel cost | Frequency | wages | Material | Total |
|----------------------------|------|---------------|-----------|-----------|---------|----------|-----------|
| | | 1.4 | £1.40 | | £25.00 | | |
| Mowing to 15mm | 0.5 | 0.7 | £7.84 | 8 | £100.00 | | £107.84 |
| Mowing to 12mm | 0.5 | 0.7 | £3.92 | 4 | £50.00 | | £53.92 |
| Mowing to 8mm | 0.5 | 0.7 | £41.16 | 42 | £525.00 | | £566.16 |
| Mowing to 4m | 1.75 | 2.45 | £68.60 | 20 | £875.00 | | £943.60 |
| Crease Marking | 0.5 | | £0.00 | 20 | £250.00 | | £250.00 |
| Crease repairs | 0.25 | | £0.00 | 20 | £125.00 | | £125.00 |
| | | | | | | | £2,046.52 |
| Scarification | 2 | 2.8 | £3.92 | 1 | £50.00 | | £53.92 |
| Aeration | 2 | 2.8 | £3.92 | 1 | £50.00 | | £53.92 |
| Overseeding | 0.5 | | £0.00 | 1 | £12.50 | £95.00 | £107.50 |
| Topdressing (Loam) | 2 | | £0.00 | 1 | £50.00 | £385.00 | £435.00 |
| Fertiliser slow release | 0.5 | 0.7 | £1.96 | 2 | £25.00 | £35.00 | £61.96 |
| Solid tine aeration | 0.75 | 1.05 | £14.70 | 10 | £187.50 | | £202.20 |
| Liquid Iron application | 1 | | £0.00 | 7 | £175.00 | £82.08 | £257.08 |
| Liquid Seaweed application | 1 | | £0.00 | 5 | £125.00 | £144.25 | £269.25 |
| Process | Time | Fuel 14ltr/hr | Fuel cost | Frequency | Wages | Material | Total |
| | | 14 | £1.64 | | | | |
| Outfield mowing 25m | 0.75 | 10.5 | £344.40 | 20 | £125.00 | | £469.40 |
| | | | | | | | £3,956.75 |

The fees received from Swifts Cricket Club for match bookings vary but average around £1,600 - £2,000 per season based on how many match bookings Swifts make through the council. With an annual maintenance cost of around £4,000 for Witney Town Council this means cricket has been subsidised by about 50%.

2 seasons ago in 2023 Swifts willingly took on the pre-match maintenance, the level of maintenance saved the council about £2,000 worth of labour and fuel and helped to cover the entirety of the remaining maintenance requirement of the cricket field.

Impact Assessments

The Town Council has a duty to consider the effects of its decisions, functions and activities on equality, biodiversity, and crime & disorder. Consideration should also be given to effects on the environment, given the Council's Climate Emergency declaration in 2019.

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

Social Value

Social value is the positive change the Council creates in the local community within which it operates.

Financial implications

- The depreciation of the equipment required for the cricket square maintenance has not been factored into the final calculation.
- Football pitch renovations which represent around £20,000.00 worth of materials, contractor costs and labour are also not factored in which also benefits the cricket field.
- With increased maintenance of the cricket square more green waste has to be disposed of from the site. This is removed from the site via a green waste skip which is also not factored into the maintenance costs.

Recommendation

Members are invited to note the report.