

## HALLS AND GREEN SPACES COMMITTEE

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**Date:** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020  
**Title:** Sports and Recreation Grounds  
**Contact Officer:** Operations and Estates Officer – John Hickman

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### **BACKGROUND**

The purpose of this is to update Councillors about the current position regarding the Sports and Recreation Grounds

#### **Cricket**

The Swifts CC are playing their first two teams at West Witney and their 3<sup>rd</sup> team at the Leys this year. The Audley Travel will also be asked to play at the Leys, and it will also be used by Henry Box School for weekday afternoon matches.

The Swifts will be using the glass room at West Witney as their Pavilion, this is currently also used by Park Run and as storage for the Sports and Social Club. The Swifts are supposed to carrying out works to the kitchen cupboards etc. in order to improve the facility, they are also asking permission to increase the number of power outlets in the room as currently there is only one double socket.

The area that the concrete base will be made to place the score shed has been agreed with the Operations and Estates Officer the area selected is in front of the changing rooms and the new steel external staircase on the same area as was concreted for the original score board.

#### **Football Spartans Woodgreen**

The Spartans football team that formally played two teams on the Leys and one on King Georges have agreed to play all three teams at Woodgreen this year. They have hopes of being able to establish a football facility that they can identify as their own.

Council has agreed Halls and Green Spaces 13<sup>th</sup> January 20 H13(5) that the Town Council consults with West Oxfordshire District Council and Woodgreen School regarding the Town Council taking responsibility for Woodgreen's field and the unhindered provision of the school changing rooms, and parking on Saturdays, Sundays and weekday evenings for sports

teams; however this is going to take some time, in the meantime the Operation and Estates Officer needs to be able to work on the Woodgreen pitches from the 1<sup>st</sup> May 20 to firstly orientate the pitches in the opposite direction to the current orientation returning them to how they were originally set out. This should then take the pitches away from the area that floods. A total of 8 goal post sockets will need to be purchased for this at a cost of £400 for two sets, the works team would install these in preparation for next season. There is requirement to purchase new goal posts as the existing posts used at the Leys and King Georges would be used for these two pitches.

Permissions would need to be gained from WODC to be able to maintain the pitches, hedge and grass cutting at Woodgreen until the area was transferred to WTC.

The end of season pitch renovations works from the leys and King Georges could then be carried out on these two pitches by Continental Landscapes to start bringing them up to WTC specification in preparation for the 2020/21 season.

The additional cost to WTC if King Georges football pitch was transferred to Woodgreen as well and both the Leys pitch one and King Georges Field were maintained as amenity grass would increase the Grounds contract costs by £1922. 88 per annum.

WTC may wish to ask for a commuted sum from WODC for taking this area on however this would be better dealt with in the land transfer as any request for a commuted sum at this moment in time may prevent WTC gaining access to the field in order to carry out the required works in time to be ready for the 2020/21 season.

WODC are waiting for an undertaking from WTC to take on the Woodgreen Field area once in receipt of this they will start procedures to transfer the area to WTC.

Changing facilities and toilets are provided by Woodgreen School the booking and control of these for teams using the Woodgreen Field need a clear agreement between WTC and Woodgreen School to be agreed. This needs to be agreed before WTC undertakes final agreement with WODC. Council Gwatkin has spoken to Woodgreen School regarding the use of the changing rooms.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

## **RISK**

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.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The associated increase in cost to the Maintenance of the Woodgreen Area to council of £1,922.88 per annum.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Member are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. To request the freehold transfer of the land at Woodgreen playing fields – or alternatively leasehold;
2. Taking on the additional cost of the Current Grounds Contract if Woodgreen field is taken on of £1,922.88.
3. To request a commuted sum from WODC to take on Woodgreen Field and if so how much to request.
4. To continue discussions with Woodgreen School regarding access to the changing rooms and who would be responsible for booking changing rooms etc.
5. Council agreement if permission is to be sought from WODC to maintain Woodgreen Field area from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020 in order to prepare football pitches for 2020/21 season until the area is transferred to WTC.
6. The purchase of 8 x Goal Post sockets at approx. £400