



Saxilby with Ingleby Parish Council

Non-confidential

Review Changing Room Charges

Report to: Full Council 24-02

Report by: Clerk

Power/duty which decision falls under: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011

Which council objective(s) it falls under:

- Maintain and improve community facilities and amenities
- Improve the well-being of residents
- To foster public participation and engagement

Public Sector Equality Duty (*Consider how policies/decisions affect those protected under the Equality Act*)

-

Consideration on carbon reduction:

-

Consideration of risk management in relation to the proposal¹

- Financial
- Reputational
- Reduced use of facilities not in-line with council objectives

Does the report consider any new activity? If 'Yes', has a risk assessment including risk management proposals for consideration been included for consideration and adoption by the council? (*Financial Regulation 17b*)

- No

¹*Risk areas to consider - strategic/operational, likelihood/impact, add to risk register?, any contingency planning needed?*

Background

The council agreed at June 2023 full council the 2023/24 hire charges for the changing rooms at the community centre. Going forwards these costs will be determined as part of the fees and charges review undertaken in March for the forthcoming financial year and the charging model can be reviewed.

Historically, clubs are charged towards the end of the calendar year, to allow time for them to collect income in order to pay the invoice. Accordingly, invoices were raised and shared with the clubs in November 2023, along with the facility hire agreement.

The clubs were contacted by the admin team to receive an update on payment date. Replies were received which expressed the clubs view that the amount being charged was not commensurate with the use by the clubs. A meeting was requested by the bowls club, which was held in January 2024.

To date neither organisations have returned a signed facility agreement currently.

Financial

As with the provision of any facility, there is a cost associated with the provision of it.

Costs are now apportioned to the changing room facilities, which provide a clearer and more transparent view of the costs. To month nine (December), the running costs are £1,270. This is projected to be £1,690 at year end. This currently excludes staff costs for weekly checks etc associated with running the changing rooms.

The bowls and tennis facilities hire charge each contribute 14% to this running cost.

Objectives and Discussion

The council's objectives include:

- Maintain and improve community facilities and amenities
- Improve the well-being of residents
- To foster public participation and engagement

The tennis and bowls club members and visitors have access to all facilities within the changing rooms facility.

This includes toilets, showers, and changing rooms. Due to the configuration of the changing rooms, it is not possible to provide access solely to the toilets.

Currently the charges do not cover the running costs, however the provision of the clubs are in-line with two of the council's objectives – 'well-being' and 'participation and engagement'.

If the charge was reduced there would be an increase in the deficit between income and expenditure.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That full council notes the report and re-considers the changing room facility charges for 2023/34, following requests by the bowls and tennis clubs.

The council considers reducing the charge to from £240 to £180 as a goodwill gesture for 2023/24.

Appendix I: Tennis Club Correspondence (Received 27/01/24)

“In terms of our reservations about the invoice: we more than happy to pay for the facility, however we believe the cost charged is too high.

1. The tennis club do not access the changing room facility at all, only the toilet.
2. On average, the toilet facility is used by a tennis club member approximately once at a weekend (during club session or weekend match for visiting players) and during the summer, perhaps two weekday evenings again mainly for visiting players attending matches at our courts.
3. Given the limited use of the facility, no damage or mess being caused by tennis members using the facility, we feel the cost to be too high.
4. Other sports teams use the facilities far more - there should be varied charge between each group.
5. We are trying very hard to grow the tennis club for the village and every cost is to the detriment of our fundraising plans.
6. We have aims and ambitions for the club; the costs of LTA insurance and ball fees are ever increasing - any reductions in other costs, such as the toilets, would benefit the club financially to ensure continued growth.

We are happy to contribute towards the water/electric bill, however, in a way that represents our usage. We also are keen to continue to build relationships with the Parish Council and would greatly appreciate your support with this matter to ensure the development of our club. Thank you for your consideration of this matter and we look forward to our meeting with you on the Tuesday 6th Feb at 5pm.”

Appendix 2: Bowls Club Correspondence (Received 27/01/2024)

“Further to our meeting on Tuesday 23rd January 2024, regarding the invoice we received from yourselves for the sum of £240 for the use of the changing rooms, showers, and toilets for the year 2023/24. We were previously informed we would be under ‘light use’ and had not been given any indication as to the charges, and it is felt that this is not reflective of the facilities we have used.

During the meeting we were asked to put forward our case regarding charges and our reason for our findings and submit them to yourselves before the next meeting. Below is our report as to why our charges should be reduced. We give permission under GDPR for this report to be shared at the meeting.

Firstly may we bring your attention to the document **Facility hire rates, agenda item 16. To approve the 2033/24 rates for the facility hire and ground maintenance.** (Which we have only just seen this week)! The section for Bowls and Tennis and its access to the toilets, shower facilities, and home and away dressing rooms. To apportion costs, you have recommended £20 per month, hence your charge of £240 for the year. As we only use the ‘facilities’ between April and September 2023, a 6-month period, the maximum we should pay at £20 per month would be £120. However, we **only use the toilet facilities** and even then, it is only by a small number during any one of our sessions.

As a quick breakdown we have

22 Saturday roll ups – approximately 6 visits per roll up = 132

48 home matches – approximately 3 visits per match = 144

During the bowls season, there maybe a few additional occasions when members play a competition or practise but other than this the total number of organised games where significant numbers of people are in attendance is approximately 70/75 times. We estimate a total number of people using the toilet facility only as follows: 132 + 144 = 276 people.

276 people @ 20p per use = £55.20 (maximum costings for Lincolnshire public toilets in 2022)

276 people @ 40p per use = £110.40 (maximum costings for Lincolnshire Public Toilets 2024)

We request our bill for the 6 months use be reduced to £80 which seems more than fair based on the above figures.

Over 90 percent of our members are village residents and most visit the toilet prior to attending the bowls club for a match or roll up so out of the few people that ‘pay a visit’ many of those are from other clubs and have travelled a distance. Under health and well-being, we have a duty to provide toilets, especially for any with medical needs, disabilities, and long-term conditions, also noting that our demographic has a high proportion of older members, who may need to go to the toilet. Having access to a toilet is a universal human need and can have a significant impact on our health if facilities are not available.

The toilets on Bridge Street that are open to the public shut at 3pm, which can impact people’s social outings, restricting their ability to leave the house for long periods of time, others in fear of not finding a toilet are put at risk to social isolation. The number of public toilets has decreased by 40 percent over the last 10 years, let’s be the village reacting to this human need, let’s lead the way and provide these facilities, possibly for longer periods in the summer months. The royal society of public health announced that 700 council run facilities have closed since 2010 and linked a lack of public toilets and the rise of obesity in the UK.

We are an inclusive, non-profit organisation, here to serve the local community, bringing them opportunities to get out and meet other people, be out in the fresh air and learn a new skill. Enhance their health and well-being and avoid loneliness and isolation. We pride ourselves on being a friendly group, that other clubs love to visit, and we are gaining a great reputation for having a wonderful maintained green. We believe the Parish Council wish to join us in encouraging more clubs and organisations to the village, whilst supporting existing ones, making us stand out as a great place to live.

We thank you for your consideration in this matter. We will be at the meeting to answer any questions that may arise.

Geoff Streeter
Chair of Saxilby Bowls Club

Emma Bowden
Secretary of Saxilby Bowls Club”

Appendix 3: Decision and Background Report to Full Council on Charges 23-06

Decision:

FC116/23 To approve 2023/24 rates for facility hire and grounds maintenance

Resolved - The following was resolved:

1. Football teams at Mill Lane and the Recreation Ground:
 - a. £525 per team playing on a senior 11-a-side pitch
 - b. £364 per team playing on a pitch under the 11-a-side pitch size
Proposed by Cllr Crump and resolved.
2. Cricket teams:
 - a. £400 per cricket team (11 players per team) corrected from £450
 - b. £327 per women's softball team (8 players per team)
 - c. £250 per children's team (understood to be 8-11 players per team depending on age)
Proposed by Cllr Waller and resolved.
3. That service agreements are also implemented for the cricket teams, comparable with the terms in the Mill Lane football agreement – and delegated to officers to implement, who will liaise with the recreation ground charity accordingly.
Proposed by Cllr Hillman and resolved.
4. That the hire charge for the changing rooms is £240 per local club – bowls and tennis.
Proposed by Cllr Waller and resolved.
5. That service agreements are implemented for use of the changing rooms by the local bowls and tennis clubs – and delegated to officers to implement, who will liaise with the recreation ground charity accordingly.
Proposed by Cllr Crump and resolved.
6. Floodlights charge remains at £5 per month to cover 10 hours and £0.40 per hour for any extra hours per month.
Proposed by Cllr Waller and resolved.

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16. To approve 2023/24 rates for facility hire and grounds maintenance

Report to: Full Council 23-06

Report by: Clerk

Power/duty which decision falls under: General Power of Competence, Localism Act, 2011.

Which council objective(s) it falls under:

1. **Maintain and improve community facilities and amenities**
2. **Protect and enhance our green spaces and street scene**

Public Sector Equality Duty (*Consider or think about how policies or decisions affect people who are protected under the Equality Act*)

1. The facilities are available to all who would like to book them
 2. Lower rates have been made available for children to encourage participation and reduce the prevalence of cost being a barrier for entry into sport
 3. Fees have been derived based on actual costs, using data currently available and will be refined as further data becomes available
 4. Increases have not been applied to football teams, in-spite of a challenging financial climate
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FOOTBALL

Current charges are:

£525.00 per team playing on a senior 11-a-side pitch.

£364.00 per team playing on a pitch under the 11-a-side pitch size.

The facilities provided at the recreation ground and Mill Lane are broadly comparable:

1. Maintenance of football pitches, including grass cutting, white lining, and goal mouth maintenance – including watering daily in the off-season when re-seeded
2. Access to home and away changing rooms
3. Access to showers
4. Access to toilets

Football Recommendations

1. Due to the changing of the charging structure coming in early 2023 for 2022/23. It is recommended the football charges remain the same for the 2023/24 season, to provide the above service provision, with the service standards being in-line with the agreed service level agreement resolved last year.

CRICKET

- Training at the recreation ground takes place April to September (6 months – 26 weeks –with bi-weekly cuts for training 13no. 1.5 hours per cut) once a week for the men's team and women's team.
- Matches are usually from April to August, with 4 to 6 matches currently taking place per team. 2.5hours (1.0 hour for boundary marking, 1.5 hours for grass cutting)
- Costs include machinery costs, consumables costs (such as white line paint), and staff costs. Other costs include the running of the changing rooms

The provision of facilities includes:

- a. Maintenance of cricket pitch including grass cutting and boundary marking (club marks wicket/astro pitch)
- b. Access to home and away changing rooms
- c. Access to showers
- d. Access to toilets

Cricket Recommendations:

Like the football teams a set charge is made of:

2. Charge of £400 per cricket team (11 players per team)
3. Charge of £300 per women's softball team (8 players per team)
4. Charge of £200 per children's team (understood to be 8-11 players per team depending on age)

This would cover for each team:

- a. 13 training cuts bi-weekly from April to September
- b. 10 match cuts for a maximum of 10 matches between April to August
- c. Boundary marking for a maximum of 10 matches between April and August
- d. Access to the changing rooms for matches and training

BOWLS AND TENNIS

Club access to changing rooms for training and matches – including toilets, shower facilities, and home and away changing rooms.

Apportioning of costs (for example gas, electric, cleaning, maintenance, and water) associated with the changing rooms has started to be recorded for 2023/24 to gain a better understanding of the real costs to provide this service.

It is recommended a nominal charge is made of £20 per month for 2023/24 to be re-assessed next year (on the basis of more detailed accounting information being obtained in the meantime). It is likely the actual costs will be higher than this amount. Charge £240 per year for use of the changing rooms per club for bowls/tennis.

FLOODLIGHTS

Currently the charge for this is £5 per month to cover 10 hours and 0.40 per hour for any extra hours per month. Propose to keep the same.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Full Council/Committee notes the report and approves the following charges and actions for the 2023/24 year:

7. Football teams at Mill Lane and the Recreation Ground:
 - a. £525 per team playing on a senior 11-a-side pitch
 - b. £364 per team playing on a pitch under the 11-a-side pitch size
8. Cricket teams:
 - a. £450 per cricket team (11 players per team)
 - b. £327 per women's softball team (8 players per team)
 - c. £250 per children's team (understood to be 8-11 players per team depending on age)
9. That service agreements are also implemented for the cricket teams, comparable with the terms in the Mill Lane football agreement – and delegated to officers to implement, who will liaise with the recreation ground charity accordingly
10. That the hire charge for the changing rooms is £240 per local club – bowls and tennis
11. That service agreements are implemented for use of the changing rooms by the local bowls and tennis clubs – and delegated to officers to implement, who will liaise with the recreation ground charity accordingly
12. Floodlights charge remains at £5 per month to cover 10 hours and 0.40 per hour for any extra hours per month.