



Saxilby with Ingleby Parish Council

Non-confidential

Note correspondence from a resident regarding funding and support for local sports clubs and agree next steps

Report to: Full Council 24-05

REPORT(S):

A member of the public requested to speak at the last council meeting, however the item was not on the agenda. It was agreed to add their queries to the next agenda for full council consideration. The following questions were raised by the member of public in a number of emails. Extracts which contain questions have been laid out below and a response provided by the clerk.

Email dated 11/03/24

Question 1:

"I've just discovered today that the football pitches on the memorial field will not be maintained after the end of March. Our football season does not conclude until mid-May. I've also been made aware today that the football teams were not informed or consulted of this decision. Is that an accurate account please?"

The football and cricket clubs were emailed on 30/01/24 to inform them of the change:

"...I know that our staff have enjoyed providing this service for a number of years and recognise this will be a large change for the sports clubs affected. The clubs may be able to apply for grant support to off-set some of these costs for example through the parish council's [grant scheme](#) or other funding bodies such as the district council or the Football Foundation.

If you would like to discuss any of the above further, or arrange a meeting with representatives of the council, please reply to this email or contact me using the contact details below, so I can assist you."

No reply was received to the email.

Background:

The parish council previously undertook the management of the Recreation Ground Saxilby on behalf of the managing trustees. Following queries being raised with regards to the authority of the managing trustees to delegate functions to the parish council and due to the parish council having no legal obligation to undertake the management, the council notified the charity that it would cease the management on behalf of the managing trustees (October 2022).

The council is the custodian trustee of the Recreation Ground Charity therefore its interest in respect of the charity is to hold the title to the land on behalf of the charity. It does not involve any management responsibilities. The council in law has no responsibility for the administration or the management of the charity. This is the sole responsibility of the managing trustees.

Email dated 15/03/24

Question 2:

“Since learning on Monday that the Parish Council is to no longer maintain the recreational field there is an urgent need for a number of teams to consider next steps given the impact it has on them. At the Parish Council meeting in January I’ve noted the following statement in the minutes: “The Council to engage with the Sports Club and School regarding a change in Service Provision”. Please could you kindly confirm the form that engagement took place and when please?”

Reply as question 1.

Question 3:

“A role of the Parish Council is to best serve its local community and have regard for its residents wellbeing. There are many groups who could be impacted by the decisions you take with regards the recreational field and building and therefore it would be helpful if you could consider and publish an Impact Assessment so as a community we can understand your mitigations to safeguard the wellbeing of your community.”

Response: The council has an agreed plan with regards to leasing the community centre which includes commissioning a condition survey, an independent feasibility study, as well as undertaking public consultation. The potential impact will be considered as part of this work and based on the aforementioned the council will make a decision. Support has been offered to the clubs to assist in the change of service provision due to the council no longer managing the recreation ground and this support offer remains.

The council is not responsible for the management of the recreation ground. This is the responsibility of Saxilby Recreation Ground charity.

Question 4:

“...I would like to now be afforded the opportunity to meet Councillors and Trustees to urgently consider how we can all work together, exploring option to safeguard the interest of all parties and really importantly protect the wellbeing of our community... There are many volunteers in this community who do not expect the burden to fall on your shoulders to solve but they rightly expect you to be at the table to protect this communities interest and work with them on sustainable options for all parties.”

A meeting was organised and held on 2 April with local clubs, cllrs, and trustees present.

There was agreement between clubs to start a 'sports association'. This is a positive step to increase engagement and collaboration between the sporting organisations on the field and to increase club ownership, autonomy, and to facilitate harnessing internal expertise and capacity.

- Email sent by the clerk on 17/03/24

“As discussed, please find links to sources of funding and support. Football Foundation is a great place to start and they have lots of funds available for many different things including goals, grass cutting equipment and pitch prep, and will guide you through the process.

<https://footballfoundation.org.uk/looking-for-funding>

There is also some smaller pots via

- 1. The District Councillor Initiative Fund (if they still have funds in their pots – Jackie Brockway and Paul Lee – so two pots potentially to apply for – easy application, call them to discuss first*
- 2. The parish council's grant pot (apply after April when the new pot is launched) – easy application*
- 3. Lincolnshire Co-op Community Champions – next round closes 10 May – easy application*

Starting point is to brain storm what's needed and develop a wish list and costs e.g. roll on roll off goals from Harrod Sports - <https://www.harrodsport.com/football/c-fbl/goals-30>, grass cutting and line marking equipment (or funds for a contractor). From that applications can be paired with what's needed.

I would suggest a meeting with Lincs FA/Football Foundation as they should be keen to provide support and guidance as well. I am happy to read over any applications and provide feedback.

Hope this helps, and look forward to working together going forwards to support the club moving forwards.”

- Further email sent by the clerk on 25/04/24 to clubs with funding opportunities for clubs – Tesco.

Email 02/04/24

Question 5:

“Did any consultation take place? In taking this decision was an Impact Assessment undertaken please by the Council?”

See above.

Question 6:

“Would you hire out your equipment to a suitable qualified person for a fee please?”

Council does not currently hire out any of its ground's equipment. The insurance position would need to be confirmed. The equipment is expensive and is needed for the grounds team to carry out their work on a daily basis, so a risk would be if the equipment is damaged and not returned as found there would be costs and an interruption in service. On the basis of this it is not a recommended solution.

Question 7:

“Given a different view was offered on the legality could a confirmed position be provider please. The preference for Saxilby Athletic FC is to “buy back” the services of the PC Groundmen given their understanding of requirements.”

The council is a custodian trustee and not a managing trustee of the field. Based on legal clarification, a service agreement could be legally possible to offer a service, under the current structure.

The grounds team is a small team who have a number of other areas to maintain across the whole parish including a burial ground, St Botolphs green spaces, Mac Phail green space, Northfield rise green spaces, Westcroft green space, and Ashfield Grange green space. The small team also maintain two council owned football pitches at Mill Lane. Cut the verges around the village throughout the growing season. Undertake litter picking and bin emptying, as well as maintaining benches etc. Capacity is restricted to carry out further work.

Council is not scheduled to provide a grass cutting service for 2024/25 for non-council owned pitches. The council notified the club in January, providing eight month's notice of the change prior to the 2024/25 season.

Question 8:

“To support the financial sustainability of the affected football teams in the short to medium term can funds be made available to support any outsourcing please? It is essential to have regard to responsibilities in respect to the wellbeing of the community a pledge set out in your agreed Neighbourhood Plan.”

The clerk has shared sources of funding with the member of the public and offered support to facilitate grant applications.

Council funding is available to apply for via the grant scheme, which has been previously shared. the application form is [available online](#).

Voluntary Centre Services West Lindsey have confirmed they would be pleased to meet with the football club and other sports club to facilitate capacity building and accessing funding.

Active Lincolnshire are also another point of contact which the council can facilitate a meeting with, to facilitate the sustainability of the teams.

Background:

Note the neighbourhood plan is an adopted planning document, whilst the council's objectives are:

1. Maintain and improve community facilities and amenities
2. Protect and enhance our green spaces and street scene
3. Preserve and enhance heritage assets, environmental assets, and wildlife
4. Retain and encourage employment and tourism opportunities
5. Improve the well-being of residents
6. Respond to planning consultations in-line with the NDP, to meet the needs of the community and addressing any transport impacts
7. To foster public participation and engagement
8. To recognise the climate and biodiversity emergency and it should be considered as the basis of all decision and policy making

Question 9:

“Neighbourhood Plan 2017 - 2036:

The document sets out the PC intentions to promote healthy communities, sports, and recreational facilities. It would be so helpful to understand your intentions and progress in this area and the Council funds associated to delivering this ambition. What is the status of the review of the Plan and has there been any involvement from the community/groups please?”

The council's finances are publicly available and updated on a monthly basis. These are accessible under the meeting papers for each finance meeting – [finance and risk committee](#).

The NDP is being reviewed, with regular meetings taking place. The [NDP Review Group](#) is an open group and they would be pleased to welcome the member of the public to discuss their progress to date and for them to shape the plan going forwards. A statutory process is undertaken which includes extensive community consultation, a referendum and external examination to ensure the content of the plan is robust and legal.

A number of the projects within the plan have been progressed and completed. This includes the wheeled park and play area – which support health, well-being, sport, and recreation within the community.

The cycle track connection to connect Saxilby with Lincoln – supporting support health, well-being, sport, and recreation.

Other projects within the plan have also been progressed such as the community woodland (Saxilby Nature Project) – again which benefit recreation and well-being. Cycle parking has been installed on Bridge Street and at Saxilby Recreation Ground which is also to this end.

The community centre is maintained and managed by the council. This provides access to changing rooms for local sports clubs, a library (well-being), room hire – used by indoor bowls, karate, pilates, Tai Chi, children’s yoga, refreshments for sports clubs, and warm welcome.

“I personally see the offer and progress as very limited including investment or indeed seen to be one of the PC priorities.”

See above response.

Question 10:

“Council Precept - Clerk to establish/table at Council Meeting whether funds can be diverted to any Sports Association to support an enhanced offer of Sports in the Community.”

The council notified the clubs in January of a change to give clubs time before the new season (eight months) to arrange a new service provider.

There are grant funding avenues available which have been shared by the clerk and support offered to help access these, including for the parish council.

Voluntary Services at West Lindsey have offered support, and the council is able to facilitate this should the member of the public want to take up this offer.

The council sets a budget for the year ahead and the budget has been agreed for 2024/25 by council. When the sports association is established, it is recommended they approach the council if they have areas they would like to be considered for funding.

Council starts its budget setting process in September/October time so it is advised for contact to be made prior to this if there are specific items/projects in mind which they would like council to consider and seek funding for going forwards. This will allow it to be taken into consideration during the budget setting process.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Council notes the correspondence from a member of the public and agrees to the following actions to support the sustainability of sports clubs in the community:

1. Invite applications for council funding (via s137 grant) for 2024/25
2. Invite the sports association/clubs to liaise with the council to discuss 2025/26 and share items/projects which they would like council to consider as part of their budget setting process
3. Voluntary Services at West Lindsey have offered support for capacity building and funding. Council to arrange a meeting this should the member of the public/clubs/association want to take up this offer
4. Active Lincolnshire may be able to offer support. Council to seek to arrange a meeting this should the member of the public/clubs/association want to take up this offer
5. Clerk to share any further grants which they become aware of