

He was pleased to report a solid start, from the beginning of the school summer holiday, with 28 adults and juniors participating. They had three coaches working on a Saturday morning and Tuesday evening. Interest had grown through word of mouth and they were keen to make a fresh approach to the schools in Witney. Members who were school governors agreed to approach their schools, and also suggested the Schools Partnership; details would be forwarded to Mr Cartledge.

Premier Tennis was keen to continue through the winter, increasing the Saturday sessions and to possibly include Sunday mornings rather than a Tuesday evening as the nights draw in.

Mr Cartledge commented that they were looking to apply for grants, through Sport England on behalf of primary schools, and Lottery funding which would be aimed at children over 14 and adults. Officers expressed some reservations with regard to how this would affect potential grant funding of other Council projects.

In answer to a question, Mr Cartledge confirmed that the Tots Tennis had moved from Madley Hall into the Windrush Leisure Centre. He would be pleased to discuss the indoor requirements with the Facilities Manager.

A Member commented that this project was started as a partnership for a trial period and queried when Mr Cartledge envisaged that the Town Council would receive some income. Mr Cartledge was hopeful that this would be viable within 6-12 months, although he expected the winter months to be challenging. He also advised that they would be looking to interest teenagers in becoming coaches and agreed with the suggestion that the ATC might wish to become involved in this.

(Mr Cartledge left the meeting at this point, be 6.25pm).

R414 **OPERATIONS REPORT**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Facilities Manager, as circulated with the agenda.

Members considered the situation with regard to Woodgreen fields and were disappointed that, although WODC were happy to hand over the management to the Town Council, they were unlikely to provide funds towards the maintenance. The Chairman and Councillor Mrs Baker were due to meet with Officers of the District Council, and the Facilities Manager agreed to provide a report for them to take in order to discuss this situation. The Facilities Manager commented that the problem over the changing facilities had been resolved and that there did not appear to be so much demand for football pitches for the new season.

The Committee discussed the situation with regard to West Witney Sports & Social Club and the Town Clerk confirmed the background leading to the current situation. She commented that WWSA had requested a meeting with her. She considered that they were trying to work with the Council to provide solutions to the problems;

however, they had been concerned by some of the questions put to them by the Council.

The Facilities Manager explained the responsibilities as set out in the condition survey and the costs and work which would be incumbent on the Town Council before WWS&SC could take on its responsibilities. She commented that, in principal, the Town Council needed to acknowledge and consider the work to be done through meetings and an audit using all the historic information available in order to look at and discuss the split of responsibilities. A full report would be brought back to committee for consideration during the budgetary process.

Members agreed that it was in the interest of the Town Council to manage its assets going forward in a business like manner.

RECOMMENDED:

- 1) that the report be noted.
- 2) that the Town Council does not take over the management of Woodgreen fields unless an adequate budget can be negotiated with WODC.
- 3) that Witney Pistol Club be advised that the Town Council is unable to provide and police specific spaces for individual groups at West Witney Sports Ground and suggests that the Club approaches other users directly to see if an informal arrangement can be agreed.
- 4) that consideration is given to the landlord's responsibilities in respect of compliance at the West Witney Sports & Social Club and that the Town Council recognises the work to be done and accepts its responsibility to the public in this regard.

R415 **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Town Clerk/RFO, as circulated with the agenda.

The Town Clerk reported that as many of the areas of responsibility overlap, this was the same report as presented to the Amenities Committee. This new format showed the phased budget over the year, and included figures for the first quarter, to 30 June 2014. She advised that the new RFO would be looking at splitting the cost centres in order to reflect the Committee structure – particularly the split in the former Leisure & Recreation Committee.

RECOMMENDED: that the report be noted.

R416 FOOTBALL PITCH BOOKINGS

The Committee received and considered the report of the Works and Contract Supervisor & Bookings Administrator, as circulated with the agenda.

Members were disappointed to note the lack of co-operation from some of the football clubs, and the additional costs involved in preparing and marking extra pitches, without having confirmed bookings for these pitches prior to the booking deadline.

RECOMMENDED:

- 1) that the report be noted.
- 2) that the recommendations contained in the report be agreed, as follows:
 - a) that extra pitches at the Leys Recreation Ground will not be marked this year, unless a viable amount of bookings are in place prior to the bookings deadline;
 - b) that fixtures must be booked by the prior Tuesday 12 noon or the fixture will not take place, be agreed;
 - c) that both the cricket and football teams be required to supply all relevant documents and paperwork one month prior to the start of each season otherwise preparations will not be made;
 - d) that football tournaments are not held on recreation grounds which are used for cricket;
 - e) that football tournaments may be held during the month of May on recreation grounds which are not used for cricket.
- 3) that football clubs be notified of the Council's policy with regard to use of its pitches.

R417 TENNIS ON THE LEYS – UPDATE FROM PREMIER TENNIS

The Committee received and considered the report from Premier Tennis, as circulated with the agenda.

Members considered the request for the trial period to be extended. The Facilities Manager commented that the original proposal from Premier Tennis had included the pavilion and golf facility. She advised Members that the Leys master plan should also be taken into consideration.

RECOMMENDED:

- 1) that the report be noted.
- 2) that the trial period for Premier Tennis be extend for a further period of 12 months, on the same terms and conditions as the initial trial period.

- 3) that in considering the Premier Tennis proposals to apply for grants, they be requested to research and clarify the concerns of the Committee and Officers and report back to the Town Council before pursuing such grants.

R418 **WITNEY TOWN BOWLS CLUB – LEASE RENEWAL**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Town Clerk, as circulated with the agenda.

RECOMMENDED:

- 1) that the report be noted.
- 2) that the request from Witney Town Bowls Club that they be allowed to rent out the clubhouse, be agreed.
- 3) that Officers review the costs of water rates and ground maintenance in providing these services to Witney Town Bowls Club.
- 4) that a new lease to Witney Town Bowls Club be negotiated, subject to revaluation and a rent review.
- 5) that any fees incurred by Witney Town Council in negotiating the revised rent and drawing up a new lease be the responsibility of Witney Town Bowls Club.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm

Chairman