



R E P O R T

**MEETING: MANAGEMENT & FINANCE COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL 2024 – 7.00 P.M.
MEETING ROOM - SPRINGFIELD PARK LEISURE
CENTRE, SPRINGFIELD ROAD NORTH, COPPULL**

**PRESENT: Councillors M. Atherton (Chair), M. Parkinson (Vice-Chair),
K. McCrea, S. Makin, M. Peel-Impey and S. Edwards (Clerk)**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – None.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL /
PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS** (Members of the Parish Council are reminded
of their responsibility to declare any personal interest in respect of
matters contained in this agenda, in accordance with the provision of the
Local Government Act 2000) – **None.**

2.1 **DECLARATION OF GIFTS – None.**

3. GENERAL MANAGEMENT/FINANCE

3.1 Leisure Centre – Review of contract due May 2024 (every five years),
over a 20 year term which commenced in May 2014 There are quite
a lot of items in the contract which have not been upheld by both
parties. A meeting is being arranged with the Trustees to discuss the
original contract which is still valid. The condensed version which was
proposed in 2021 to try and simplify the contract was not signed, so
the original contract still stands. The following recommendations
were made:

- As a matter of health and safety, the code for the sports hall should
be given to the Clerk to keep in case it is needed, i.e. if there was a
fire, all rooms need to be available for the Fire Authority. This code
would not be given to anyone else (including Parish Councillors). It
would only be used in an emergency.
- The “rent” of £250 for the centre is really just a peppercorn rent.
The Parish Council should be able to see the centre’s balance sheet
before a review of the rent is considered. The recommendation



IN COLLABORATION WITH SLCC, NALC, OVV, COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS

from this committee would be not to put the rent up, so as not to put the Trustees/Charity under stress.

- The Trustees to be asked for their intentions towards the café. If it is not going to be used, the committee recommended that the Parish Council consider other ways for its use.
- Following on from the surveyor's report, there is a lot of maintenance work to be done and this needs to be prioritised over the next few years, with the most urgent work being done as soon as possible. The boiler recently stopped working, it has been fixed, but the contractor stated that because of the age of the boiler, parts are now unavailable and a new boiler would shortly be required. The cost of this could be around £10k.

3.2 A1 Fitness – Review of contract due May 2024. The following recommendations were made:

- That the rent of £600 stay the same, as they are still building their business back up from Covid. There is also a lot of work needed to the building, some of which is the responsibility of A1 Fitness. The fire extinguishers are due to be checked soon, the fire alarm service has been brought up to date and a fire risk assessment has just been undertaken. The inspector mentioned a few urgent matters and the Chair and Clerk to visit A1 tomorrow morning and ask them to remedy these asap.

3.3 Allotments – Review of terms and conditions. The following Recommendations were made:

- That a Parish Councillor be on the Allotment Associations Committee, so that the Parish Council is up to date with matters. This used to be done by Cllr Paul Eastham.
- That the amendments made by the Allotments Committee be extended further, i.e. Stage 1 letter giving 2 weeks to cultivate, Stage 2 from the PC giving 4 weeks with automatic eviction if nothing is done.
- That the fees for the allotments be paid with 28 days, i.e. by the end of January each year, with additional fees to be paid if not - £70 by the end of January, £80 by the end of February and £90 by the end of March.
- That the Parish Council and the Allotments Committee meet up



IN COLLABORATION WITH SLCC, NALC, OVV, COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS

annually to discuss matters, the first meeting to be held as soon as mutually convenient.

- There is an amount of money of approximately £7K which has been saved from previous years fees (plus approx.. £1,000 towards any future water costs). This is going to be used to update paths, put in new fencing, etc. The committee members to be reminded that the PC only lease this land. The lease is for 25 years and can be taken back by the Diocese if they intend to sell the land for building in the future.

3.4 New Village Hall – Review of contract for the nursery and costs. The following was recommended:

- The rent to start off at £500 per month until the nursery is up and running, then to go to £650. The rent to be reviewed again after six months.
- The following charges for hire are recommended:
 - £50 per party (over 18s only) with a £50 refundable deposit if no damage
 - £25 for 3 hours
 - £10 for 1 hour

3.5 Five year Management Plan – to be deferred and discussed at the next meeting.

4. PLANNING – None.

5. CORRESPONDENCE / ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION-DECISION – None.

6. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION / FUTURE DISCUSSION – None.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25 p.m.

.....
Councillor M. Atherton
Chair of Management & Finance Committee