

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION
COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 7.30PM
IN THE TOWN HALL, MARKET SQUARE, HIGHAM FERRERS**

PRESENT:

Cllr C O'Rourke (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs P H Whiting
Cllr V K Paul
Cllr G Kelly
Cllr B Spencer (as substitute)
Cllr S Prosser (as substitute)
Miss A Schofield (Town Clerk)
Mrs E M Arrow (Assistant Clerk)

1 member of the public

1. **APOLOGIES**

Cllr H L Jackson, Cllr P McCann, Cllr P Tomas.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9th July 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

4. **PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

5. **SPORTS AND HIRE FEES REVIEW**

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That the current sports and hire fees for 2024-25 remain unchanged for 2025-26, as follows:-

Sports Clubs and Facility Fees

- Football Clubs: Football Pitch only - £16 per match. With Changing Rooms - £25 per match. With access to Pavilion for Toilets - £9.50 per match.
- Cricket Club: Cricket Pitch - £220 per season. Changing Rooms - £300 per season. The above charge is per season assuming a match each weekend, additional matches may be charged pro rata'd at the above rate.
- Tennis Club: - £162.50 per quarter to include all matches, club and coaching sessions and use of the cabin.

Casual Hire of Tennis Courts and MUGA

- Tennis Court Hire - £5 per hour. Half price if a Tennis Club Member.
- Regular users - seasonal fee of £50 per annum.
- MUGA - £10 per hour

School Use of Facilities

Fee for the period after May half term through to the end of summer term period, £300.

Sports Pavilion Hire

Category of Hire	Room Type	Price per Hour (£) (Mondays –	Price per Hour (£) (Sundays/Public

		Saturdays inclusive)	Bank Holidays)
Commercial	Hall 1	£12.50	£18.75
Charity	Hall 1	£10	£15
Community	Hall 1	£9.50	£14.25
Under 13's Party	Hall 1	£8.50	£12.75
Private Function / Party	Hall 1	£11	£16.50

If you are a group, individual or organisation offering free health and wellbeing services to residents of the town, the council will consider offering free use of this facility on a case by case basis.

Hire of Castle Fields

The use of Castle Fields for fairs etc. be subject to negotiation by the Clerk, with a minimum fee of £500.

Outdoor Events on Town Council owned Open Spaces

- **Local Community/Charity based in Higham Ferrers** - No charge (but donations accepted for upkeep)
- **Local Community/Charity based outside of Higham Ferrers** - £50 per day.
- **Commercial other** – subject to negotiation by Clerk, minimum of £150 per day.
- **Corporate** – subject to negotiation by Clerk, minimum of £300 per day.
- **Local Government events promoting sports, health and wellbeing for the Higham Ferrers community** – No charge (but donations accepted for upkeep).
- **Fitness sessions/dance/activity classes** – If there is no fee charged by the hirer to their participants – No charge (but donations accepted for upkeep). If there is a fee charged by the hirer to their participants - £10 per session held.

6. **REVIEW OF THE FREE USE OF THE PAVILION**

RESOLVED:

That the continued free use of the pavilion is permitted for both AK Fitness Training and the Book Exchange.

7. **LARKIN GARDENS PLAY AREAS**

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That the council adopt the play area adjacent to 57 Larkin Gardens and the play area adjacent to 20 Larkin Gardens subject to agreement on the commuted sums. That the Clerk be delegated to agree the commuted sum within the range specified.

8. **BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN**

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That a Biodiversity Action Plan be approved.

9. **TREE PLANTING, SAFFRON ROAD RECREATION GROUND**

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That two 12-14ft swedish white beam trees be planted at Saffron Road Recreation Ground with a budget of £750 approved for the cost of the purchase and planting of the trees plus associated stakes, tree ties and metal guards.

10. **PARISH PATHS WARDEN REPORT**

RESOLVED:

That the Parish Paths Warden report is received and noted with thanks to Marion Darnell.

11. **ITEMS TO REPORT**

Cllr Whiting attended an event in Rushden that was run by NNC and had sports clubs, police, a fire engine, water slide, golf and other activities available for attendees. The event was free for activities and attendance. It was very well run and received and Cllr Whiting asks if we can request the event be brought to Higham Ferrers next year.

12. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

12th November 2024

Chairman

Date