

**Agenda item number:**

**Date of meeting:** 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019

**THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

**Recreation and Amenities Committee**

**Report by: Mel Alexander**

**Job Title: Town Clerk**

**Subject: Henwick Worthy Sports Ground**

**1 Purpose of Report**

For Committee to consider concerns of the Town Clerk regarding the management and operational structure of Henwick Worthy Sports Ground.

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**2 Town Clerk's Concerns**

I have concerns regarding the management and operational structure arrangements for Henwick Worthy Sports Ground, that I feel put Thatcham Town Council at risk of actions it does not control.

Current arrangement:

Land Owner - West Berkshire Council

Lease Holder - Thatcham Town Council (excluding the two clubhouses)

Management - Joint Management Committee

Day-to-day Operation - West Berkshire Council Officers

Insurance – West Berkshire Council

Accounts – West Berkshire Council

The site is run by West Berkshire Council, but Thatcham Town Council is the leaseholder and therefore has legal responsibility for the site.

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**3 Financial Implications**

Thatcham Town Council contributes an average of £40,000 per annum towards the running costs of Henwick Worthy Sports Ground but has shared liability for all over and under spends.

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**5 Legislation**

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19

Open Spaces Act 1906 ss.9 and 10

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**6 Reference to Council Plan**

Objective Five: To protect and improve our open spaces, recreation facilities and heritage

- To promote the health and wellbeing of residents in Thatcham, the Council will continue funding of Henwick Worthy Sports Ground and Kennet Leisure Centre and take an active part in its management.

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**7 Consultation**

No consultation has taken place.

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**8 Recommendation**

That a Working Party be established to consider the implications of the current management and operational arrangements relating to Henwick Worthy Sports Ground.

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