

CARTERTON RECREATION GROUND

Reg. Charity No. 202903
Town Hall, Alvescot Road,
Carterton, OX18 3JL
01993 842156
clerk@carterton-tc.gov.uk

Chair: Cllr M Mead
Vice-Chair: Cllr S Watson
Trustees: Cllr R Brooks, Cllr R Crapper, Cllr S Evans, Cllr K Godwin, Cllr J Guest,
Cllr E Hatton, Cllr N Leverton, Cllr C Lincoln, Cllr M McBride, Cllr D Melvin,
Cllr N King, Cllr S Vaughan, Cllr K Wood, Cllr L Wood

You are hereby summoned to attend the **QUARTERLY MEETING** of **CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL** as **SOLE TRUSTEE** of **CARTERTON RECREATION GROUND (REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 202903)** on **Tuesday 10 February 2026 at 7pm** at Carterton Town Hall.

Under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 the Council's public meetings are recorded, which includes filming, audio-recording as well as photography.

In accordance with the council's standing orders any councillor or member of the public must inform all of those present if they wish to film, photograph, livestream or make an audio recording of meeting proceedings.

We are proud to announce that Carterton Town Council has signed the Civility and Respect Pledge. The Council will treat all Members, Officers, and members of the public, with civility and respect at all times. We please ask that members of the public do the same.



Simon Garwood
Chief Officer/Town Clerk

AGENDA

PAGE

1. APOLOGIES

Trustees to receive apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST and DISPENSATIONS

With reference to items on the agenda Trustees are reminded of their responsibility to declare interests accordingly.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public are invited to speak on issues relating to this agenda. The period of time designated for public participation in accordance with Standing Orders 3(e) and (f) shall not exceed 15 minutes, maximum of three minutes per person, and will be under the direction of the Chair.

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|---|----------------------|
| 4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
To approve and sign the minutes of the Trustee meeting held on 11 November 2025. | PAGES 3 – 9 |
| 5. FINANCES
a) To approve the monthly bank reconciliations up to December 2025.
b) To note the latest income and expenditure budget update. | PAGES 10 – 14 |
| 6. ARRG WORKING GROUP UPDATE
Trustees are asked to note the final report of the ARRG Working Group, now that the Working Group has completed its work, and recognise that the proposals and recommendations within the report will be brought forward separately for Trustee consideration and decision at future meetings. | PAGES 15 – 19 |
| 7. CARTERTON RECREATION GROUND ASSET REGISTER REVIEW
To review the charity’s asset register. | TO FOLLOW |
| 8. PLAY PARK PROJECT UPDATE
To receive a verbal update on progress with the project to deliver a new play park at Carterton Recreation Ground. | |
| 9. FOOTBALL ON THE REC
To receive an update on the use of the Recreation Ground by Carterton Football Club. | PAGES 20 – 21 |
| 10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING
To note the date of the next quarterly meeting as Tuesday 12 May 2026 which will also be the AGM. | |

Members of the Press and Public Welcome

CARTERTON RECREATION GROUND

**A QUARTERLY MEETING of CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL as Sole Trustee of
CARTERTON RECREATION GROUND (Registered Charity No.202903) was held on
TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2025 commencing at 7.15pm at the Town Hall
and was attended by the following:**

Chair: Cllr M Mead
 Vice Chair: Cllr S Watson

Trustees: Cllr R Crapper, Cllr K Godwin, Cllr J Guest,
 Cllr N King, Cllr D Melvin, Cllr L Wood

Officers: Simon Garwood (Town Clerk)
 Claire Evans (Deputy Clerk/RFO)

Also In Attendance: There were four members of the public present.

ITEM	MINUTE	VOTE / ACTION
CRG56-2025/1	APOLOGIES	
	<p>Trustees to receive apologies for absence.</p> <p>Apologies were received from: Cllr E Hatton, Cllr N Leverton, Cllr C Lincoln, Cllr M McBride, Cllr S Vaughan and Cllr K Wood.</p> <p>Cllr S Baylis has resigned from the Town Council since the last meeting and therefore has also resigned as a Trustee of the Carterton Recreation Ground.</p> <p>Cllr R Brooks was absent.</p>	
CRG57-2025/2	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST and DISPENSATIONS	
	<p>With reference to items on the agenda Trustees are reminded of their responsibility to declare interests accordingly.</p> <p>There were none.</p>	
CRG58-2025/3	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	
	<p>Members of the public are invited to speak on issues relating to this agenda. The period of time designated for public participation in accordance with Standing Orders 3(e) and (f) shall not exceed 15 minutes, maximum of three minutes per person, and will be under the direction of the Chair.</p>	

	<p>Sue James asked what the Trustees' plans were for the Pavilion, as this could affect their use of the Recreation Ground for the May Day Fair, Acting Community Thingumybags car boot sales and Carterton Celebrates events, and also how the plans for the Play Park might affect events next year. Cllr Mead said that the Pavilion will be staying exactly as it is until after the Play Park project has been completed.</p> <p>Marie Stimpson from the ARRG Working Group asked whether the working group were able to approach charities to seek funding for repairs to the Pavilion. The Clerk replied that they were welcome to do research, but the approach to charities needs to come from the Council as Trustees.</p>	
CRG59-2025/4	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING	
	<p>Trustees to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2025.</p> <p>IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2025 be signed as a true record.</p>	<p>Proposed: SW Seconded: KG All in favour</p>
CRG60-2025/5	FINANCES	
(a)	<p>To approve the monthly bank reconciliation up to August 2025.</p> <p>The RFO confirmed that the bank balance for September was £4,163.16, and for October was £9,322.17, which included the £6,000 grant from the Town Council.</p> <p>IT WAS RESOLVED that the bank reconciliation up to August 2025 be approved and is attached at Appendix A.</p>	<p>Proposed: SW Seconded: MM All in favour</p>
(b)	<p>To note the latest income and expenditure budget update.</p> <p>The income and expenditure budget update was noted and is attached at Appendix B.</p>	
CRG61-2025/6	BUDGET	
	<p>To discuss and approve the Carterton Recreation Ground budget for 2026/2027.</p> <p>The budget was circulated with the agenda. It is the first budget since the Recreation Ground accounts were separated from the Town Council accounts.</p> <p>Cllr Godwin asked how maintenance of the boundary hedging is going to be funded. The RFO said this was part of the Ubico contract, but the cost is currently unknown, so it is not possible to proportion it to the Recreation Ground account at this stage.</p>	

	<p>Cllr Watson said to note that over the last three years the expenditure on the Pavilion in 2024/25 was £5,400, and in 2025/26 the budget is £1,100 of which £150 has been spent so far. In the year to come, the budget is another £1,500 for maintenance of the building. This is quite a high cost and the future of the building needs further discussion.</p> <p>IT WAS RESOLVED that the budget for 2026/2027 be approved and is attached at Appendix C.</p>	<p>Proposed: KG Seconded: NK All in favour</p>
CRG62-2025/7	CHARITY COMMISSION ANNUAL RETURN 2024/2025	
	To note that the Annual Return for 2024/2025 has now been submitted.	Noted
CRG63-2025/8	ARRG WORKING GROUP UPDATE	
	<p>Trustees are asked to note the final report from the ARRG Working Group, which has now completed its work.</p> <p>Cllr Godwin said that there were still a couple of items that will need to be brought to the Trustees for discussion, one of which will include the future of the Pavilion and they would prepare a report for the next Trustee meeting.</p>	Noted
CRG64-2025/9	PLAY PARK PROJECT UPDATE	
	<p>To receive an update on progress with the project to deliver a new play park at Carterton Recreation Ground.</p> <p>The Clerk gave an update. Five suppliers have submitted designs – Proludic, Haags, Playdale, Kompan and Harlequin, to give ideas and costings only at this stage. Whilst they all submitted good designs, Proludic and Harlequin also made presentations to officers and the working group. It is important that, as this play park is main park in the town, it has to stand out. It also needs to be inclusive and accessible, have a theme, be colourful and challenging. None of the designs on their own were ideal, so the way forward could be to take a hybrid approach, perhaps with Proludic and Harlequin as a base and bring in aspects from the other providers as well. It will depend on the budget and what funding can be raised.</p> <p>Recommendations for the Trustees are to note the different designs and costings put forward, to feed back any other ideas either in terms of the concept or individual pieces of equipment. Trustees are asked to agree that a hybrid approach is the way forward and to approve the next steps, which are to apply for funding and write up a specification for the tender. This will come back to the Trustees again before the tender goes out.</p>	

	<p>Cllr Godwin said it was difficult to envisage the new park layout in the space without seeing the pictures for comparison. The Clerk said it was not possible to share the designs of individual suppliers publicly at this stage, but this was available in the office if Trustees wanted to see it. He confirmed that the new park would remain within the footprint of the existing one.</p> <p>Cllr King confirmed what the Clerk had said, that the detailed designs were available to see in the Clerk’s office. The park would not be smaller as a certain amount of space has to be left around each piece of equipment for health and safety reasons.</p> <p>Cllr Mead summed up that it is important that the park is safe, inclusive and fun, and the aim is to achieve the best possible park within the budget available.</p> <p>The Clerk said we are looking to go out to tender around February 2026 with a view to opening the new park for next summer or else September. During the works, the area would be fenced off and would not affect the rest of the Recreation Ground.</p> <p>IT WAS RESOLVED that the Trustees approve that the Clerk applies for funding and draws up the specification for the tender.</p>	<p>Proposed: SW Seconded: NK All in favour</p>
CRG65-2025/10	WORKS FOR AUTHORISATION	
	<p>New noticeboard at the Recreation Ground</p> <p>Following the recent installation of the new noticeboards in the Town Centre, an additional noticeboard should be installed on the Recreation Ground, which would include a map of the town and some information about William Carter. This would be funded by S S106 money for town signage.</p> <p>A quote was obtained from Greenbarnes Ltd, who installed the town centre noticeboards, to provide either a single or double-sided noticeboard.</p> <p>A quote was obtained from McCracken & Son Ltd for installation of the noticeboard.</p> <p>Cllr Godwin said she would rather have the double-sided version to enable The Charter to be displayed as well. The Clerk said that QR could be included on the single-sided one, linking to more information on The Charter on the website.</p> <p>IT WAS RESOLVED that Greenbarnes Ltd to approved to supply the single sided 3-bay 6AF with sign panel noticeboard at a cost of £1,846.50 + VAT; and to approve that McCracken & Son Ltd install the noticeboard at a cost of £325 + VAT.</p>	<p>Proposed: SW Seconded: NK 4 For 3 Against</p>

CRG66-2025/11	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
	Trustees to note the date of the next quarterly meeting as Tuesday 10 February 2026 at the Town Hall.	Noted

The meeting closed at 7.43 pm.

Chair:

Date:

APPENDIX A

Date: 04/09/2025 Carterton Recreation Ground Page 1
 Time: 16:06 **Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 31/08/2025** User: C.EVANS
for Cashbook 1 - Unity Trust Bank

<u>Bank Statement Account Name (s)</u>	<u>Statement Date</u>	<u>Page No</u>	<u>Balances</u>
Unity Trust Bank	31/08/2025		5,949.74
			5,949.74
<u>Unpresented Payments (Minus)</u>		<u>Amount</u>	
		0.00	
			0.00
			5,949.74
<u>Unpresented Receipts (Plus)</u>		0.00	
			0.00
			5,949.74
		Balance per Cash Book is :-	5,949.74
		Difference is :-	0.00

Signatory 1:
 Name ~~Clare Evans~~ Signed Clare Evans Date 04/09/25

Signatory 2:
 Name Michelle Ford Signed [Signature] Date _____

APPENDIX B

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> 04/09/2025 Carterton Recreation Ground Page 1 </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> 16:22 Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 31/08/2025 </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> Month No: 5 Cost Centre Report </div>							
<hr/>							
<u>100 Administration</u>							
4100 Bank Charges	31	0	(31)		(31)	0.0%	
Adminastration :- Indirect Expenditure	31	0	(31)	0	(31)		0
Net Expenditure	(31)	0	31				
<hr/>							
<u>200 Recreation grounds</u>							
1010 Recreation Hire	900	0	(900)			0.0%	
Recreation grounds :- Income	900	0	(900)				0
Net Income	900	0	(900)				
<hr/>							
<u>300 Pavilion</u>							
4306 Health & Safety	305	0	(305)		(305)	0.0%	
4310 Water	167	0	(167)		(167)	0.0%	
4320 Electricity	118	0	(118)		(118)	0.0%	
Pavilion :- Indirect Expenditure	590	0	(590)	0	(590)		0
Net Expenditure	(590)	0	590				
<hr/>							
Grand Totals:- Income	900	0	(900)			0.0%	
Expenditure	621	0	(621)	0	(621)	0.0%	
Net Income over Expenditure	279	0	(279)				
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	279	0	(279)				

**Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 30/09/2025
for Cashbook 1 - Unity Trust Bank**

<u>Bank Statement Account Name (s)</u>	<u>Statement Date</u>	<u>Page No</u>	<u>Balances</u>
Unity Trust Bank	30/09/2025		4,163.13
			<u>4,163.13</u>
<u>Unpresented Payments (Minus)</u>		<u>Amount</u>	
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			4,163.13
<u>Unpresented Receipts (Plus)</u>			
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			4,163.13
		Balance per Cash Book is :-	4,163.13
		Difference is :-	0.00

Signatory 1:

Name Signed Date

Signatory 2:

Name Signed Date

**Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 31/10/2025
for Cashbook 1 - Unity Trust Bank**

<u>Bank Statement Account Name (s)</u>	<u>Statement Date</u>	<u>Page No</u>	<u>Balances</u>
Unity Trust Bank	31/10/2025		9,322.17
			<u>9,322.17</u>
<u>Unpresented Payments (Minus)</u>		<u>Amount</u>	
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			9,322.17
<u>Unpresented Receipts (Plus)</u>			
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			9,322.17
		Balance per Cash Book is :-	9,322.17
		Difference is :-	0.00

Signatory 1:

Name Signed Date

Signatory 2:

Name Signed Date

**Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 30/11/2025
for Cashbook 1 - Unity Trust Bank**

<u>Bank Statement Account Name (s)</u>	<u>Statement Date</u>	<u>Page No</u>	<u>Balances</u>
Unity Trust Bank	30/11/2025		10,658.91
			<u>10,658.91</u>
<u>Unpresented Payments (Minus)</u>		<u>Amount</u>	
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			10,658.91
<u>Unpresented Receipts (Plus)</u>			
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			10,658.91
		Balance per Cash Book is :-	10,658.91
		Difference is :-	0.00

Signatory 1:

Name Signed Date

Signatory 2:

Name Signed Date

**Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 31/12/2025
for Cashbook 1 - Unity Trust Bank**

<u>Bank Statement Account Name (s)</u>	<u>Statement Date</u>	<u>Page No</u>	<u>Balances</u>
Unity Trust Bank	31/12/2025		10,602.15
			<u>10,602.15</u>
<u>Unpresented Payments (Minus)</u>		<u>Amount</u>	
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			10,602.15
<u>Unpresented Receipts (Plus)</u>			
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			10,602.15
		Balance per Cash Book is :-	10,602.15
		Difference is :-	0.00

Signatory 1:

NameSignedDate

Signatory 2:

NameSignedDate

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 30/11/2025

Month No: 8

Cost Centre Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<u>100 Administration</u>							
1100 Grants Received	6,000	0	(6,000)			0.0%	
Administration :- Income	<u>6,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(6,000)</u>				<u>0</u>
4100 Bank Charges	51	0	(51)		(51)	0.0%	
Administration :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>51</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(51)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(51)</u>		<u>0</u>
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>5,949</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(5,949)</u>				
<u>200 Recreation grounds</u>							
1010 Recreation Hire	900	0	(900)			0.0%	
Recreation grounds :- Income	<u>900</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(900)</u>				<u>0</u>
4305 Repairs & Main.	45	0	(45)		(45)	0.0%	
Recreation grounds :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>45</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(45)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(45)</u>		<u>0</u>
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>855</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(855)</u>				
<u>300 Pavilion</u>							
4305 Repairs & Main.	956	0	(956)		(956)	0.0%	
4306 Health & Safety	1,435	0	(1,435)		(1,435)	0.0%	
4310 Water	245	0	(245)		(245)	0.0%	
4320 Electricity	196	0	(196)		(196)	0.0%	
Pavilion :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>2,832</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(2,832)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(2,832)</u>		<u>0</u>
Net Expenditure	<u>(2,832)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,832</u>				
Grand Totals:- Income	<u>6,900</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(6,900)</u>			<u>0.0%</u>	
Expenditure	<u>2,928</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(2,928)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(2,928)</u>	<u>0.0%</u>	
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>3,972</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(3,972)</u>				
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>3,972</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(3,972)</u>				

ARRG Working Group Final Report - February 2026

This report is the final report of the Alvescot Road Recreation Ground (ARRG) Working Group submitted to the Carterton Town Council Trustees in February 2026. The group was established to address “all things ARRG”, the residents' concerns regarding the management and future of the recreation ground, which is held in trust by Carterton Town Council as the sole trustee for the community.

Objectives

- **Asset Evaluation:** Assessing the condition of existing structures, including the Pavilion, Bandstand, and play facilities.
- **Community Advocacy:** Supporting and promoting the aspirations of Carterton residents regarding the future of the recreation ground.
- **Trust Compliance:** Ensuring all proposals align with the charity's objects to provide community recreation.

Key Recommendations

- **Pavilion Retention:** The group recommend retaining the Pavilion building as a valuable asset, and that funding be sought to repair the structure in phases:
 - **Phase 1** – repair the roof, render and cladding on the exterior of the building and explore a community graffiti project.
 - **Phase 2** – upgrade and extend the kitchen facilities for use by those booking the recreation ground to sell refreshments and increase the size and change the opening of the serving hatch to outside opening, convert the shower area into storage, provide sufficient temporary storage by converting the current four areas into two larger areas for users of the recreation ground to support events held on the recreation ground.
 - **Phase 3** – provide additional accessible toilet facilities and ramped access for use by those booking the recreation ground, but not for use by the general public.
- **Bandstand Relocation:** Propose to relocate the Bandstand to Swinbrook Road Recreation Ground to encourage events across different areas of the town, as it was noted to be underused at the Alvescot Road site. Recommend that the proposed relocation forms part of the recently approved town survey.

- **Structural Restrictions:** Propose
 - to document that no further permanent structures should be erected on the recreation ground outside of the designated play park, ensuring existing structures remain ancillary.
 - to document that combined areas of development, including the play park, pavilion, and bandstand, do not exceed 5%.
 - that the current size of the play park be measured and mapped so that any future developments of the play park are contained in the current area.

- **General Facility Improvements:** Prioritising the Play Park project, cutting back the hedging to facilitate the cleaning up of litter and addressing safety aspects over other secondary aesthetic projects.

- **Friends of the ARRG:** Propose that a Friends of the ARRG is formed from members of the general public who care passionately about the recreation ground, who will be allowed to make recommendations to the ARRG Trustees to
 - improve the biodiversity of the recreation ground,
 - improve accessibility, increase the usage of the site by appropriate activities,
 - organise events to raise funds and awareness of the site,
 - support the trustees in the advertising of events and activities on the recreation ground,
 - review and monitor the Quinquennial repairs required.

- **Governance:**
 - Post a copy of the 1937 Conveyance with the Charter, and a link to the Recreation Ground Act (1989), the Open Spaces Act (1906) on the Charity Commission.
 - Provide a Glossary of Terms from the Charter to provide future readers of the Charter with a clear understanding of the terms used within it. See APPENDIX A.
 - Ensure the Terms of Reference and Administration Policy
 - Are signed and dated, including 3.1, requiring that no significant changes can be made to the recreation ground without full and robust public consultation to ensure that all residents of Carterton have the opportunity to have their say.

- Include a further amendment to ensure that the Terms of Reference and Administrative Policy can only be changed when the residents of Carterton are present, and that these terms and conditions can only be amended after determining the feelings of the town residents and after a vote of the Trustees at the public Annual General Meeting of the Trustees.

Next Steps

1. **Governance:** sign and date the Terms of Reference and Administrative Policy, including 3.1, requiring that no significant changes can be made to the recreation ground without full and robust public consultation to ensure that all residents of Carterton have the opportunity to have their say

Discuss and approve a further amendment to ensure that the Terms of Reference and Administrative Policy can only be changed when the residents of Carterton are present, and that this policy can only be amended after determining the feelings of the town residents and after a vote of the Trustees at the public Annual General Meeting of the Trustees.

2. **Pitch Power Assessment:** The council resolved to undertake a [Pitch Power assessment](#) to evaluate the quality of the playing surfaces, but bear in mind that the Recreation Ground is not a sports field and is not to be used for regular sporting events without the agreement of the Trustees.
3. **Play Park Project:** Progression of the project to deliver a new, more inclusive play park, following [community consultation](#) that identified high demand for neurodiverse-friendly equipment.
4. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Arranging meetings with current users, such as the Brownes Hall Social Club, to discuss future usage and collaboration.

APPENDIX A – ARRG Glossary of Charter Terms

ASSIGN – allocate

BENEFICIAL OWNER – A person or organisation who ultimately controls or owns a business or legal entity. This is normally over 25% of the voting rights or shares.

BOURTON ROAD – This is shown on the map and has since been renamed Burford Road.

GRANTOR – The Giver or a Conveyance.

GIPSY ENCAMPMENT – Traveller’s encampment.

HEREDITAMENT – Item of property

INCUMBRANCE – Hindrance, obstruction, impedance, burdomsome.

INDENTURE – A written agreement (by the Issuer or Trustee).

PERCH – A measurement – 5.0292 metres, 5.5 yards, 16.5 feet.

RECREATION GROUND – An area is NOT used for regular organised sports events.

ROOD – A measurement – 0.25 acres, 10,890 square feet, 1,210 square yards, 1,011.714 square metres.

SHILLBRIDGE ROAD – this is shown on the map and has since been renamed Alvescot Road.

APPENDIX B – Clarification of activities and Charter Items

ACTIVITIES – Activities allowed on the ARRG are, but are not restricted to:

- Circus
- Fair
- Car Boot Sale
- Fundraising Events
- Occasional football matches

ANCILLARY - <definition> to come from Solicitor.

BOUNDARY FENCE – This is modified to explain that there is no boundary fence or wall directly in front of Brownes Hall.

FRIENDS OF THE CARTERTON RECREATION GROUND – formed from members of the general public who care passionately about the recreation ground and who will be allowed to make recommendations to the ARRG Trustees to improve the biodiversity of the recreation ground, improve accessibility, increase the usage of the site by appropriate activities, and organise events to raise funds and awareness of the site.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES – any change which will have a significant impact upon the use of the open space for events, enjoyment of the open space, etc. <definition>

SUNRISE AND SUNSET – this is no longer relevant and is unenforceable.

Report to the Recreation Ground Trustees

Use of the Recreation Ground for Football Matches

Purpose of report

To update the Trustees on recent discussions with Carterton Football Club regarding the proposed use of the Recreation Ground for football matches, and to outline next steps.

Background

As previously agreed, the Recreation Ground was made available in principle for limited football use, during December and January, subject to ground conditions and appropriate management arrangements. This was intended to support local sporting provision while allowing the Trustees to monitor any impacts on the site.

Current position

The Football Club has advised that, due to exceptionally wet weather this winter, it has not been possible to prepare or mark out the pitch to date. The ground has been too soft to allow essential maintenance works, including the use of machinery for pitch preparation. As a result, no football matches have taken place on the Recreation Ground so far, and there is therefore no activity or usage data to report at this stage.

The Club has indicated that, subject to improved weather and ground conditions, it anticipates being able to prepare the pitch towards the end of February.

Proposed arrangements

- The Football Club has confirmed it will purchase and install suitable 11-a-side goals at its own cost.
- The Club has a small number of volunteers willing to assist with preparing and marking out the pitch.
- The pavilion will be made available for matches, but only for toilet and not changing facilities.

Recommendation

It is proposed that, if the pitch can be prepared safely, March and April are treated as the limited trial period for football use rather than December and January. This would allow the Trustees to:

- observe actual levels of use;
- assess any impacts on the ground, facilities, and wider public enjoyment of the site; and
- consider feedback from the football club, councillors and residents before deciding on any longer-term arrangements.

A further discussion could then take place at the Trustees' meeting in May, informed by evidence from the trial period.

Conclusion

At present, football use of the Recreation Ground has not yet commenced due to weather conditions. Any future use would be limited, monitored, and subject to further Trustee consideration. The situation will continue to be managed cautiously, balancing support for local sport with the Trustees' responsibilities for the Recreation Ground as a whole.