



Wincanton Sports Ground

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Purpose of the Report

The purpose of the report is to update members on the current support and financing of the Wincanton Sports Ground (WSG).

Public Interest

The Wincanton Sport Ground provides an important leisure and recreation facility to Wincanton and its surrounding hinterland.

Recommendations

1. Members note the report.

Report

At the Area East Committee on 14th October 2020, under agenda item 9 - Area East Forward Plan, Cllr Nick Colbert asked if there could be a report brought forward for Wincanton Sports Ground regarding the financing and support.

Contact was made with the Chair of the Wincanton Recreation Trust (WRT) who has provided an update on the current operation and status of the WSG.

WSG is owned by the Wincanton Recreational Trust (Charity No: 1174519), which operates the facilities on a day-to-day basis by volunteers operating under the structure of a Management Committee. For background information, in Appendix One are details provided by the WRT Chairman, of the sports clubs that use the site, a summary of the WRT short, medium and long term aspirations and a brief SWOT analysis of the WSG.

Between 2005 and 1st November 2020, the day-to-day operations were managed on behalf of the WRT by the Wincanton Sports Ground Management Company (WSGMC) (Company No. 05406944). However, the Wincanton Recreation Trust has now taken back day to day operation of the site, as it considered it to be in the best interest of the sports ground.

Due to the recent change in operation of the WSG, the finances are in a transitional period and therefore need to be considered in this context.

Table 1.0 below provides a summary of the financial activities for the Wincanton Recreation Trust for 2018 & 2019. The figures have been sourced from the Charity Commission web site and are the most up to date accounts available. Due to the recent changes in the operation of the WSG these accounts lack detail on the finances of the site and this is acknowledged by the WRT chairman.

Summary of Financial Activities for Wincanton Recreation Trust 2018 & 2019

	Year ended 30 September 2019	Year ended 30 September 2018
Total Income	£304	£587
Total Expenditure	£37,668	£45,185
Fund balances	£1,189,532	£1,226,896

Table: 1.0

The 2019 Balance Sheet for the WSGMC is set out in Table 2.0 and was sourced from the accounts submitted to Companies House. According to the WRT chairman the operating turnover of the WSGMC last year was in the region of £100,000, although details were not available when writing this report.

Furthermore, the WRT Chairman informs us that without external financial support the facility would potentially have a deficit of around £13,000 per annum. According to the Wincanton Town Council Annual Report 2020, in 2019/20 they awarded £15,000 to the WSG.

Wincanton Sports Ground Management Company Balance Sheet as at 30 April 2019

	2019	2018
Fixed Assets	£4,916	£6,271
Current Assets	£8,242	£18,423
Prepayments and accrued income	£13,731	£3,174
Creditors	(£15,564)	(£4,285)
Net current Assets	£6,409	£17,312
Total assets less current liabilities	£11,325	£23,583
Accruals and deferred income	(£1,686)	(£16,020)
Capital and reserves	£9,639	£9,639

Table: 2.0

Due to the recent transition of the WSG operation and finances, it is difficult to provide a clear picture of its financial position. However, according to the WRT Chairman the continued support from external funders is currently still necessary to avoid the WRT operating at a loss.



Financial Implications

None

Council Plan Implications

Healthy, Self-reliant Communities

To enable healthy communities which are cohesive, sustainable and enjoy a high quality of life we will: Enable quality cultural, leisure and sport activities.

Environment

To keep South Somerset clean, green and attractive and respond to the climate emergency we will work in partnership to: Adopt and commence delivery of an Open Spaces strategy. Maintaining and improving the provision of quality open spaces and parks for people and wildlife.

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change implications

Providing local access to a sporting and leisure facilities reduces the need to travel long distances, therefore reduces carbon emissions.

Equality & Diversity Implications

The Wincanton Sports Ground provides leisure opportunities to a wide variety of age groups and overall is a community resource for all.
