

WELLOW RECREATION

Hire and contribution principles for the use of Wellow Recreation Facilities

Objective

The aim of Wellow Recreation is to encourage activities within the village that improve the health and wellbeing of villagers - with a particular focus on maximizing use of resources on the playing fields. To help achieve this, those playing field and associated facilities will shortly come under the management responsibility of the Wellow Recreation Trustees. It is the Trustees responsibility to ensure that, as part of promoting wellbeing, those village facilities are well-managed, with maintenance, repair and eventual replacement properly budgeted for. Without this, the benefits of our excellent village playing field resources will be short-lived.

Wellow Recreation aims to meet these costs and achieve these benefits without seeking an increase in the Parish Council precept (i.e. what villagers pay through their council tax), though future infrastructure improvements may require some Parish Council support. One way in which these costs will be met is (similar to the village hall) levying charges for use/hire of facilities so that, as a general principle, costs are met primarily by those who use the facilities. This will be backed up by specific and targeted fund raising. This paper sets out how this charging policy will operate.

Key Principles

Informal and casual use by Wellow parishioners of all facilities on the playing fields will remain free of charge with the exception of the tennis courts.

If anyone (individual or organisation) wishes to pre-book use of a facility in order to guarantee access and/or have routine or exclusive use of it, then a charge will be incurred. The charge will reflect the cost of providing the service/facilities and contribution to wear and tear, on a full cost recovery basis. If there is a sub-group that manages the specific facility in question, then the sub-group will manage the setting and collection of the charge.

Where charges are made, there will generally be different rates between users from Wellow Parish and non-parishioners, as Wellow parishioners have already contributed in part via the Parish precept.

The various sports/recreation groups that will form a part of Wellow Recreation will all be required to contribute towards running, maintenance and sinking fund costs of the facilities they use. In order to help achieve this, it is anticipated that whenever sub-groups organise use of the facilities, they will generate income from participants either on a pay to participate basis (e.g. a match fee or similar) or through pre-paid membership fees.

Recreation facilities that are unlikely to have membership based involvement (e.g. the jogging track and gym) will need to be resourced through a mix of the existing level of Parish Council funding and additional Wellow Recreation fundraising.

Charging/contribution Policy

A set of standard charges as contributions to running costs will be published for use of different facilities - once the Wellow Recreation's budget and costs have been finalised. The current indicative charge for booking the whole field for a whole day is £50. Part day bookings or booking part of the field will be an appropriate proportion.

There will be three broad approaches to charging/contributions:

1. For private functions or activities (individual or group) e.g. a private game or party that is not for wider community benefit, a fixed charge will be made
2. Where a Wellow individual or group is organising an activity for the wider village and/or organising a fund-raising activity for village benefit, a contribution will only be required once the activity generates a surplus. i.e. if the event makes a loss, it will be waived. Furthermore, a sliding scale will be applied so that the contribution/hire payment never exceeds one third of the surplus generated (up to the maximum agreed fee) i.e. it may be that only part of the contribution is paid if the surplus is small. Organisers will be asked to budget with the intention of generating a surplus in order to pay the contribution towards playing field management costs.
3. Where a one-off village activity is organised for celebratory or other purposes for whole community benefit an individual decision will be made about whether a payment is appropriate. (e.g. Jubilee celebrations).

Specific arrangements will be entered into with the School to reflect Wellow Recreation's desire to support the School, but which also recognise that the School has a budget for sport/recreation that it receives from central government through B&NES. Further consideration will be needed in the event of linked schools in Camerton and Shoscombe asking to use the facilities.

At present, the tennis facilities can only be used by members of the Wellow Valley Tennis. Once the 'club spark' booking system permits, it is the intention that booking the courts for a one-off charge will become open to non-members.

Some bookings have traditionally been made and charged for by the Village Hall Committee where the booking uses facilities for which Wellow Recreation and/or the Parish Council have responsibility (i.e. play area and playing fields). As the Village Hall Committee has currently chosen not to join Wellow Recreation, the Village Hall Committee has agreed that any booking enquiries they receive from people or organisations who want to use the play area or field, will be referred on to Wellow Recreation for booking and payment for using these facilities. Further discussions are needed with Magic Box to agree how they will contribute to the ongoing costs given their regular use of the children's play area and field.

This policy will be reviewed after one year in the light of how it has worked.

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