

**Those present:**

Cllr Gilbert – (Chair)  
Cllr Chambers  
Cllr Page  
Cllr Vigar  
Michelle Curtis (Parish Clerk/RFO)  
1 Member of the public

**1. Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence; all Members were present.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest disclosed.

**3. Minutes**

**Resolved:** The minutes of the Recreation Ground Committee Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2025 be approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Page, seconded Cllr Chambers and unanimously agreed by those who attended.

The Chair signed the Minutes.

**4. Tollsfest**

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Event Organiser for Tollsfest was unable to attend the meeting.

**Action:** Clerk to rearrange the meeting with the Event Organiser.

**5. Finances/Earmarked Reserves**

The Committee reviewed the Finances and Earmarked Reserves (Appendix A).

**6. Pavilion**

The Committee discussed ideas to encourage the use of the pavilion.

The Committee were mindful that they wanted to encourage new groups to use the facility without taking hirers away from existing halls in the village.

**Action:** Committee to consider ideas for discussion at the next meeting of the Committee.

The Committee also suggested using the Recreation Ground and the Pavilion for serving refreshments.

The following ideas were suggested:

- Park Run – Cllr Vigar to explore further
- Footgolf
- Selling refreshments during the Green Space Games sessions – Clerk to enquire with the Maldon CVS, if this would be allowed.

**7. Project/Maintenance Works**

**7.1 Project works 2026/27**

The Chair reported that a resident had recently suggested installing more benches, similar to the one near the youth shelter.

The Chair reported that at the previous Committee meeting, it was agreed to conduct a further survey to gather young people's views on what they would like at the Recreation Ground.

Cllr Chambers reported that they had explored using QR code surveys, which appeared to be relatively easy to set up.

**Action:** The Committee to review the previous survey questions and consider questions for a new survey.

Cllr Chambers reported that they had made enquiries with Essex County Council (ECC) about the use of the funds for the Hangout. These funds are currently being held by the Tailler Charity. It is hoped that the funds could be used towards Green Space Games and basketball sessions. Cllr Chambers had been advised that the basketball sessions would meet the funding criteria and was waiting to hear about the Green Space Games.

**Action:** Clerk to explore companies that could provide the basketball sessions and obtain costings.

The Clerk suggested organising another village fun run/walk. These had been successful in the past and would be an opportunity to raise funds for the Recreation Ground.

The Committee agreed this was a good idea, but due to time, it would be better to consider an event in 2027.

## **7.2 Maintenance Works**

The Chair reported that since the last meeting of the Recreation Ground Committee, the following work had been completed:

- Installation of a replacement litter bin at the entrance to the Recreation Ground.
- The yellow bollard at the entrance to the Recreation Ground near St John's Court had been removed.

Outstanding maintenance:

- Clearing of weeds from the rubber mulch surfacing
- Low maintenance tree work – The Clerk advised this was due to be carried out before the financial year end.

The Chair will prepare a list of items raised in the Play Equipment Inspection Report that require further monitoring.

## **8. Public Forum**

The Clerk advised that there were no requests from residents to address the Parish Council.

## **9. Other Matters**

The Clerk reported that at the previous Recreation Ground Committee meeting, a resident had suggested reinstating the cricket strip for use as a "soft ball" cricket pitch. The Committee were still to explore this idea.

## **10. Date of the Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on:

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – 7.30pm – Pavilion

Items to be included on the next agenda:

- Review questions for survey
- Update on Green Space Games/basketball sessions, including whether refreshments could be sold
- Ideas to promote use of the Pavilion

The Chair closed the meeting at 7.50pm.

Signed.....

Date:.....

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| <b>Recreation Ground Finances</b><br><b>As At 20th January 2026</b> |
|---|

Appendix A

|   | <b>Expenditure<br/>to Date</b> | <b>2025/26<br/>Budget</b> | <b>Balance</b>    |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Contract                                    | £7,204                         | £9,610                    | £2,406            |
| Gen Maintenance                             | £2,771                         | £3,500                    | £729              |
| Pitch                                       | £0                             | £500                      | £500              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                | <b>£9,975</b>                  | <b>£13,610</b>            | <b>£3,635</b>     |
|   | <b>Income to<br/>Date</b>      | <b>2025/26<br/>Budget</b> | <b>Difference</b> |
| Pitch Fees                                  | £2,084                         | £2,500                    | <b>-£416</b>      |
| <b>Earmarked Funds</b>                      |                                |                           |                   |
| Recreation Ground Opening Balance           | £9,771                         |                           |                   |
| Budget 2025/26 - Tree Survey and Tree Work  | £3,000                         |                           |                   |
| Budget 2025/26 - New Play Equipment Project | £1,000                         |                           |                   |
| Fell Dead Sycamore                          | <b>-£420</b>                   |                           |                   |
| New bin installation                        | <b>-£150</b>                   |                           |                   |
| Grant - Neighbourly                         | £1,000                         |                           |                   |
| Tree Survey                                 | <b>-£510</b>                   |                           |                   |
| Skate Park Removal                          | <b>-£3,360</b>                 |                           |                   |
| Youth Shelter Painting                      | <b>-£430</b>                   |                           |                   |
| New Bench                                   | <b>-£993</b>                   |                           |                   |
| Basketball Hoop                             | <b>-£1,350</b>                 |                           |                   |
| High-Risk Tree Work                         | <b>-£1,695</b>                 |                           |                   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                | <b>£5,863</b>                  |                           |                   |
| Less Committed Expenditure:                 |                                |                           |                   |
| New equipment project                       | <b>-£1,657</b>                 |                           |                   |
| Tree work                                   | <b>-£1,755</b>                 |                           |                   |
| Repairs Renewals Budget                     | <b>-£2,001</b>                 |                           |                   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                | <b>£450</b>                    |                           |                   |