

Those present:

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Page.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest disclosed.

3. Minutes

Resolved: The minutes of the Recreation Ground Committee Meeting held on 28th January 2026 be approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Vigar, seconded Cllr Chambers and unanimously agreed by those who attended.

The Chair signed the Minutes.

4. Finances/Earmarked Reserves

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

The Clerk reported that it was likely the income from pitch hire would be reduced in 2026/27, as the Clerk had been advised that Tollesbury Athletics Men's team would be folding.

5. Pavilion/Recreation Ground

The Committee discussed ideas to promote the use of the Pavilion and Recreation Ground.

Cllr Vigar advised that they had explored Park Run and that the start-up costs would be between £6,000 and £6,500. There were also concerns about the lack of parking. The Committee agreed not to progress any further.

The Committee also discussed bringing back the Family Fun Run/Walk in 2027. Previous events have been successful and have provided a good opportunity to raise funds. Various ideas were discussed, including making the event a triathlon using Woodup Pool and holding a separate children's event.

Action: To be discussed further by the Committee at a future meeting.

The Chair suggested organising a scavenger-hunt-style event to raise funds for the improvement works at the Pavilion.

Action: The Chair to explore further.

Cllr Vigar reported that they, along with the Chair, had met with the Community, Health and Wellbeing Officer at Maldon District Council to discuss funding

opportunities and ideas for the use of the Recreation Ground. At the meeting, footgolf was suggested, and Cllr Vigar had explored it further.

Cllr Vigar advised that the footgolf equipment would cost approximately £1,000 and that an application for funding could be submitted.

The idea would be for the equipment to be used during the school holidays, with a suggested donation for its use.

A course would need to be set out by Councillors when the equipment is in use.

It was also suggested that footgolf could be included for a small fee with the hire of the pavilion for themed birthday parties.

Action: Clerk to arrange a further meeting with the Community, Health and Wellbeing Officer to discuss the footgolf idea and other ideas which could be funded from the Active Essex Grant that provides funding of up to £2,000.

The Committee discussed the idea of holding board game events in the Pavilion and agreed to trial it to see whether it is successful.

Action: To be discussed further.

6. Project/Maintenance Works

6.1 Maintenance Works

The Committee would like to improve the changing rooms, primarily through redecoration and possibly new flooring. Any funds raised from events will be used towards this. The Committee would need to obtain quotations to see how much funding was required.

It was agreed to hold off on any maintenance works to the play equipment until the annual inspection report had been received.

6.2 Project works 2026/27

Green Space Games – Cllr Chambers advised that she had made enquiries about whether the money held for the Hangout could be used towards the Green Space Games Events. Cllr Chambers advised that if some youth aged between 14 and 18 could volunteer at the events, two sessions could possibly be funded.

The Clerk advised that four events had been booked, totalling £1,320.

Action: Cllr Chambers to speak to Maldon CVS to see whether they could work together to provide volunteers to assist with the sessions.

Survey – The Committee reviewed the follow-up youth survey prepared by the Chair.

Action: Cllr Chambers to convert the document into a QR code-style survey.

Action: Clerk to circulate the survey to the Full Council before publishing.

7. Tollesbury Athletic

The Committee considered the request from Tollesbury Athletic for some pitches to be marked out of season.

The Committee recognised the ongoing dedication and support that the football clubs provide in offering football opportunities to the village's young people. This is greatly appreciated.

However, the Committee decided against the marking of the pitches out of season for the following reasons:

- The current grounds maintenance contract is for marking of the junior pitches from the last Saturday in August to the end of the season, usually the end of May.
- Any additional pitch marking outside of the contract will incur extra costs.
- It sets a precedent – what will happen if other teams ask for the pitches to be marked out of season.
- If we do it this year, will there be an expectation that it is done every year.
- The pitches need rest and time to recover.
- It makes it more difficult to mark or move pitches in the new season if there are already markings on the grass.

8. Public Forum

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

9. Other Matters

The Chair reported that at the previous Recreation Ground Committee meeting, a resident had proposed reinstating the cricket strip as a “soft ball” cricket pitch. The Chair suggested that the cricket strip could be advertised to encourage use of the area.

Bollards around the car park – The Clerk advised that a resident had brought to their attention that the bollards were leaning. The Chair advised that the bollards were safe and posed no danger.

The Committee agreed that although it would be more aesthetically pleasing to straighten the bollards, there were other priorities (play equipment) that would need funding. Straightening the bollards could be considered for future work when more funds are available.

Tollesbury Arts Trail – Cllr Vigar suggested that the Pavilion be offered free of charge to the Tollesbury Arts Trail as a venue to display work. The event is on Saturday 12th September 2026.

The Clerk advised that this date may clash with football and would not be able to confirm the availability of the Pavilion until nearer the time.

10. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be arranged after the meeting with the Community, Health and Wellbeing Officer

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.19pm.

Signed.....

Date:.....

Recreation Ground Finances As At 10th April 2026

	Expenditure to Date	2025/26 Budget	Balance	
Contract	£0	£10,000	£10,000	CONTRACT RUNS UNTIL JAN 2027 - CURRENTY £800 PER MONTH
Gen Maintenance	£0	£4,000	£4,000	
Pitch	£0	£0	£0	
TOTAL	£0	£14,000	£14,000	
	Income to Date	2026/27 Budget	Difference	
Pitch Fees	£0	£2,500	-£2,500	INCOME LIKELY TO BE LESS DUE TO ADULT TEAM FOLDING
Earmarked Funds				
Recreation Ground Opening Balance	£4,963			
Budget 2026/27 - New Play Equipment Project	£1,000			
TOTAL	£5,963			
Less Committed Expenditure:				
New equipment project	-£1,657			
Repairs Renewals Budget	-£3,000			
TOTAL	£1,306			

PLEASE NOTE ALL TREE WORK IS NOW UNDER A NEW EARMARKED RESERVE - TREE WORK