**THE PARK BOWLING CLUB**

Mike Armstrong, Anne Jackson, Nick Robson, and David Ferriby (acting as convenor and secretary) have held five zoom meetings, including two with Stephen Farish (Secretary and Treasurer of the Club as well as being Head of the Parks Staff).

The History : Since the 1980s the club has handed over all bowling match fees (c.£700 a year) but has paid nothing in rent for the grounds or the buildings since early this century.

WTC has paid for everything – much of it in terms of Park Staff time, and the rest in cash costs including repairs. Difficult to calculate, but probably about £5000 per annum in total.

The proposals are below - The left hand column contains our summary of proposals.

 The right hand column contains explanations/further details.

There is some vagueness over the start date for a contract that will need to be drawn up for covid-related reasons, with the 2021 season being partial at best.

The starting date could be May 1st 2021 – or perhaps later. Present government guidelines suggest bowling could happen in the second half of April but the clubhouse would not be operable until May 17th. July 1st is now recommended as the start date. Any bowls activities in May and June will have to be agreed on the basis of ad hoc financial arrangements when we see what is actually possible.

It is recommended that the contract should be organised in terms of a calendar year – with a full year in 2022 and a partial year in 2021 with charges pro rata. A start date can be agreed later, with a recognition that the 2021 season will not be a full one, either in terms of weeks or all those interested being willing to return immediately.

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| The Bowling Club will need to pay WTC rent for use of the buildings and the bowling green, and be responsible for basic internal maintenance. E.g. decorating.The Club will be charged an annual rent for use of the clubhouse and the bowling green of £1000 per year (£200 for each of the 5 main playing months), spread over 12 months. The Club will need to liaise with Innovia to ensure that water and electricity supplies continue, with a written agreementWTC would be responsible for external maintenance e.g. walls and roof. – and pathways on the enclosed siteThe Club will be charged £20 per hour for time that is spent by Parks Staff in WTC time on the actual Green throughout the year, including the use of WTC equipment. (*This is specialist equipment that can only be used by WTC staff).*Club members will be responsible for the maintenance of the outside site other than the actual green. e.g. gutters around the green, flower beds, gates, benches.The Club keeps the whole income from season membership and charges for occasional games which will provide a proportion of the money due to WTC.WTC will be responsible for the maintenance of the toilets, seeing this as part of the amenities of the Park.Fire extinguishers exist- and are inspected annually as part of the WTC package. It is recommended that this continues under the auspices of WTC as the council owns the building.The Bowling Club will need to update its constitution to comply with current legislation | *This provides funds for maintenance over the years by WTC, running at a loss initially.*Is there any written documentation? Can both the Club and WTC check and confirm? Innovia did about two years ago install a new electricity supply – this suggests a long term commitment on its part. The original arrangements from many years ago were between Bill Lowther and Dave Bedlington.Some maintenance work will be needed soon.*(We know that initially this is likely to be considerable sum for roof repairs, but this is as a result of little maintenance in recent years. The timing is unfortunate – but it is not the Club’s fault!).**Approx calculations suggest 14 hours pre-season, 21 hours post season and 3 hours per week during the season.(= 75) Total 110 hours per year) £2200 per year. The sum actually charged will be based on the timesheets handed in.* *£20 an hour includes an element for the use and depreciation of the mower and the cost of other materials used on the grass. The Club thinks it can manage to raise c.£1500 under this heading (in addition to the £1000 for rent).* *Stephen can reduce the cost to the Bowling Club to nearer £1500 if a proportion of the work is done outside WTC time. He knows that the Club will be invoiced according to his time sheets, and it is intended that a proportion of the work will be done outside WTC hours, ensuring that the invoiced hours per year do not exceed 75 hours In any case the total hours needed per year depend to some extent on the weather!*WTC to be responsible for the paths in this area as part of the responsibility for the maintenance of paths in the park as a whole.*The last complete year 2019-2020 shows an income of £700. The club can decide on its own membership fees, season charges and fees for occasional matches. There is an incentive for the club to gain more members and encourage more use of the bowling green during the season. It also encourages the Club to organise fund-raising events and seek sponsorship.*The ceiling in the ladies’ toilets needs urgent action. Quotes are being gained for the work. Until then the ladies’ toilet is out of action.WTC will need to agree to improve signage for the Park and the Bowling Green specifically.WTC will have to ensure that disabled access is possible with a new 5 degree ramp to aid wheelchair users. – including access to toilets.It is recommended that the number of flower beds is reduced – Get rid of three large ones, leaving five. We recommend that WTC does not provide any flowers this year, but does so in future years, with the club responsible for maintenance e.g. watering. It was also suggested that the annual cost could be cut by having some tubs. Any flowers provided would be part of the large order for Wigton Park and elsewhere, therefore not actually costing much.The roof in the clubhouse needs fixing – and this is not a small job. Now that the Club has shown its intention to embrace the new financial arrangements, it is recommended that WTC go ahead with getting quotes for the roof and getting the job done. Although it will involve substantial expense, it will be an investment for future years.The metal cabin, with damaged roof and leaking will need to be demolished/removed. Quotes for this? Regardless of anything else, it needs to be done sooner rather than later because of its condition.It is recommended that the electricity supply to the three remaining pylons should be disconnected. They haven’t been used for years and could become a health and safety hazard. An electrician to do this?One pylon has already been disconnected.It was suggested that the Club could base any new wording on a model constitution from the national association and/or look at the constitution of the West Road club. |

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