

To Receive a report on Chapel Field, Saltash and consider any actions and associated expenditure

Report to: Services Committee

Date of Report: 30.08.26

Officer Writing the Report: Town Clerk

Purpose of the report: To seek Members' views on whether the Town Council wishes to participate in a partnership arrangement with Cornwall Council and local sports organisations regarding the future management of Chapel Field.

Officer's Recommendations

Members are encouraged to support, in principle, the proposed opportunity to work collaboratively with local sports organisations through a Management Committee providing guidance and advice when required to assist the clubs that use the site. Cornwall Council would remain involved in a supportive capacity.

Report Summary

A meeting was held with Cornwall Council officers to discuss the usage of Chapel Field. The meeting was positive and confirmed that Saltash Cricket Club is keen to progress its league status, but in order to do that, they require a long-term lease for the site. Cornwall Council is working with the Cricket Club to establish a lease of between 30 and 50 years with no break clause and therefore would continue for the full agreed term. Not only does a lease support their ambition to progress league status, but future funding applications and development plans. Cornwall Council's Estates Department is currently preparing the Heads of Terms for the Cricket Club's consideration which would also be shared with Saltash Rugby Club and Saltash Youth Football Club prior to instruction of the Legal team.

As part of the proposed arrangements, the lease would include provisions to guarantee continued use of the field by Saltash Rugby Club and Saltash Youth Football Club by way of a sub lease.

In recent times, Cornwall Council have invested in improvements to the enhance the onsite changing facilities the upkeep of which would transfer to the cricket club under the proposed lease arrangements.

Cornwall Council are currently responsible for the grass cutting and pitch markings, but this is something which the cricket club would also to take on under the terms of the proposed lease.

The main part of the meeting was a discussion around Saltash Town Council's ambition to work more closely with the sports clubs in the town, in particular, those that use Chapel Field, namely Saltash Cricket Club, Saltash Rugby Club, and Saltash Youth Football Club.

Cornwall Council has asked whether Saltash Town Council would be interested in participating in a Management Committee for the site. Membership could include, but would not be limited to, a small number of Town Councillors, the Town Clerk, the Cornwall Council Ward Member, and representatives from the sports clubs.

Should this proposal progress, robust Terms of Reference would need to be developed to ensure the Committee operates effectively and with clear responsibilities.

The creation of a Management Committee would provide valuable local support and oversight, which Cornwall Council has found difficult to achieve when they are not local to the site. Responsibility and any associated cost for managing the site. i.e. changing facilities and the cutting and marking the field is proposed to transfer to the Cricket Club in the future.

Cornwall Council further advised that the establishment of a Management Committee would not prevent the land from being sold in the future however any sale would be subject to the lease arrangements in place at that time

Continued sporting and community use of the site would strengthen the case for the land to be registered as an Asset of Community Value.

Overall, Cornwall Council and the sports clubs have a strong shared interest in making the proposed management model successful, with the aim of ensuring Chapel Field remains a well-managed and widely used community sports facility for many years to come.

The proposal supports the Town Council's Business Plan commitment to promoting recreation, leisure, and community wellbeing through the provision, improvement, and support of local sports and recreational opportunities.

The Business Plan also recognises the importance of protecting, enhancing, and maintaining Saltash's open green spaces, including Chapel Field, ensuring they remain accessible and beneficial to the community.

Signature of Officer:

Town Clerk / RFO