

Charity to Operate Glapthorn Playing Field

The Parish Council is using its best endeavours to

- raise funding
- purchase land and obtain leases to ensure access to that land
- construct a car park
- prepare a playing field (to Sport England specification) and
- in so doing meet all the planning conditions.

The intention is that the Parish Council will take responsibility for completing the scheme and funding all its capital costs. As soon as practicable thereafter, the Council will enter into a management arrangement with a Charity to be established for the purpose of managing the ongoing operations, maintenance of the facility, managing the hiring of the playing field to external users including Glapthorn Primary School and for raising income through charges and other fund raising to meet all day to day expenses.

A “Licence to Manage” has been drafted (for discussion) setting out the roles and responsibilities of the Parish Council and the Charity. Having provided and funded the scheme, the intention is that the Parish Council should have no further obligation to meet ongoing annual costs. The “Licence to Manage” gives the Charity considerable scope to determine the appropriate management arrangements and the responsibility of ensuring that income meets ongoing expenses. The Parish Council is proposing that the Licence to Manage is a long-term (renewable) arrangement for 25 years but with provision for termination on 12 months’ notice by the Charity.

However, the Parish Council is very conscious of its responsibility in respect of the considerable public resources which will have been expended on the scheme; therefore, sound governance and accountability arrangements must be seen to be in place. Hence, in entering into this licence to manage, the Parish Council expects that:

- The Charity shall be a CIO – Charitable Incorporated Organisation
- The Charity shall take the form of an Association CIO i.e. with charity trustees **and** a wider membership. The governing document shall provide for all adult residents of Glapthorn parish to be voting members with the facility to attend an AGM to approve the accounts of the Charity and elect trustees. The Charity Commission has a model association CIO constitution for such a situation.
- The constitution shall make provision for 6 trustees of whom 2 should be by nomination of the Parish Council (accepting of course that when acting as trustees, all trustees must act in the interests of the Charity).
- The Charity shall submit annual accounts and a financial forecast to the Parish Council (clause 3(u) of the licence to manage) and also demonstrate to the Parish Council that the scheme remains financially viable without further funding from the Parish Council (clause 3 (v)).

Following stage 1 of the Glapthorn Playing Field development, namely the provision of the land, the access road, the car-park and the playing field, scheduled for late 2019/early 2020, the longer-term aspiration (stage 2) is to provide changing rooms and a children’s playground. The most appropriate arrangements for providing and funding such additional facilities will be a matter for discussion to enable the most practicable and cost-effective solution to be selected. However once such facilities are provided, it is intended that the management of those facilities will be incorporated into the general “Licence to Manage”.