

Members are hereby summoned, and members of the public and press are invited, to attend a meeting of the War Memorial Commemoration Trust to be held on Monday 24 October 2022, at 18.45, in the Council Chamber, Market Square, Crewkerne.

Note:

- Members of the public who wish to view the meeting proceedings, either in real time or afterwards, can access the meeting through the following link:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTA9K-7L4Onjcli2Gtz7tCg>

K. Sheehan, Clerk (signed on original)
18 October 2022

Agenda

Open Forum: Questions may be put to the Trustees in person during this Public Participation Session of up to 15 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes per person. Issues notified to the Clerk a minimum of 3 working days before the meeting (i.e., by 5pm on the preceding Wednesday) will receive a response during this session. Issues raised in this session without prior notice may be referred to the Clerk to respond to within 10 working days or listed on a subsequent agenda.

1. To note apologies for absence.
2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda.
3. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 June 2022.
4. Land at Severalls tennis courts: to consider a proposal from the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and South Somerset District Council (SSDC) to proceed with the refurbishment of Severalls Tennis Courts and agree an operating model for courts access and usage.

SUPPORTING REPORT TO WAR MEMORIAL COMMEMORATION TRUST – 24 OCTOBER 2022

Agenda Item 4: To consider a proposal from the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and South Somerset District Council (SSDC) to proceed with the refurbishment of Severalls Tennis Courts and agree an operating model for courts access and usage.

Introduction:

1. Crewkerne Town Council acts as the sole trustee of the War Memorial Commemoration Trust which owns a parcel of land around Severalls, including the tennis courts.
2. The tennis courts have now been closed for several years due to being in a poor state of repair. The Town Council had begun to set aside reserves to fund the courts' refurbishment. At present there is £9,356.43 in reserves held in respect of the tennis courts upgrade. This was intended to cover the cost of a basic resurfacing of one court only (according to quotes obtained at the time).
3. Late last year members were notified of a potential scheme being put into place in conjunction with the Lawn Tennis Association and South Somerset District Council that would see funds being made available for the full refurbishment of the Tennis Courts.
4. Over the summer, the LTA has carried out a condition survey of both Crewkerne and various other tennis courts in the South Somerset area and the required works have been identified.
5. Officers have had meetings with representatives from the LTA and SSDC and a scheme has been outlined and this is now being put forward for consideration by Trustees.
6. Total costs identified in the survey were £35,300 to cover the resurfacing of the courts, the access gate technology and some contingency and removal of vegetation. The £4,000 cost for the gate will come from SSDC S106 funds bringing the LTA contribution to the project to £31,300.
7. This level of works is not one that the Town Council/Trust is likely be able to replicate as the procurement process carried out by the LTA across the South Somerset area is likely to be able to realise economies of scale.
8. A single gate access put in place would allow for controlled access to the courts through an online system.
9. LTA funding is available for this project as part of a national drive to encourage and sustain tennis at a grass roots level. This includes putting in place mechanisms to ensure that the long-term maintenance of the tennis courts at Severalls is catered for.
10. The LTA has presented three possible options for the Trustees to consider in order for them to be able to agree to fund the refurbishment:

Model A

- *Fully charged on a £36 a year for an annual household pass and £6 per court per hour for bookings outside of those who have an annual pass.*
- *No concessions in place and limited free activities.*

- *Price compares favourably to other leisure activities and sustains courts vs annual expenses / maintenance fund of £3000 per annum.*

Model B

- *As above but including concession pricing model for the annual pass e.g. £20.*
- *evidence of receipt of some form of support for income can access a pass at a reduced price e.g. £20 or made free.*
- *The balance model between the income to sustain and removes some costs.*

Model C

- *There is no annual pass in place and each booking is assigned a nominal booking fee e.g., £1.00 per court per hour.*
- *Commits council to find money each budget year for expenses and maintenance (£2,500 per annum) from council tax / other sources.*

11. Should the Trustees choose not to agree to one of the above options then the investment opportunity would be placed at risk.
12. This would then mean that the Town Council/Trust would have to put in plans to manage and pay for the refurbishment. This entails that the cost will be significantly more than anticipated when the Town Council last sought resurfacing quotes in 2019. There would also be the added cost in officer time. These additional costs would have to be funded through the precept.
13. The recent financial crisis has shown that there are substantial material cost increases currently having to be faced by organisations across the country. If the council chooses to go it alone then it will be faced with significantly higher costs than the LTA will, and as previously mentioned, have an impact on the precept.
14. If members agree to accept one of the proposed options, then a non-binding offer will be made by the LTA and this will allow the project to move to the next stages.
15. If there are charges levied, then any excess income over and above the targeted refurbishment reserves could be used to promote the tennis by running training, offering free of charge weeks, subsidised use for those on low incomes or put towards other leisure-based activities.
16. If members agree to the proposed refurbishment, then it is hoped that the courts will be ready for use in Spring-Summer 2023.

Financial implications:

At present there are no identified financial implications to Crewkerne Town Council/War Memorial Commemoration Trust for the refurbishment work.



Recommendation:

Members resolve to:

- a) Proceed with the planned refurbishment project of the Severalls Tennis Courts as outlined by the LTA and SSDC; and
- b) Adopt one of the operating models outlined in the report above; and
- c) Authorise the Clerk to sign a non-binding offer to enable the project to move to the next stage.

a), b) and c) above to be ratified at a meeting of Crewkerne Town Council.

Katharine Sheehan

Town Clerk

October 2022