



The purpose of this paper is to describe the current negotiations about the future of the Putting Green and seek Members' guidance on the options under consideration.

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**No.    DETAIL**

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**1)    BACKGROUND**

- a) Following the Town Council's funding of a new Kiosk adjacent to the Putting Green an email dated 3 February 2009 from the Isle of Wight Council (IoWC) handed management of the Putting Green was handed to the Town Council for a subsequently disputed 5-year term.
- b) The IoWC re-opened discussions about the future arrangements at the end of 2011 indicating that although they were willing for management to remain with the Town Council, that would only be possible if a commercial rent was paid.
- c) After joint discussions at a meeting on 25 August 2011 it was agreed that the IoWC would take over the recruitment of the new operator following the retirement of Sue and Chris Cooper at the end of the 2011 season while continuing to pay the Town Council the £1,600 management fee it had been charging.
- d) Their appointee had to retire after a few months of the 2012 season and Sue and Chris Cooper agreed to return and during that season agreed to continue for a further year if the Town Council funded the provision of an area of decking which was duly installed.
- e) During the 2013 season the Town Council was informed of an interest from Jackie and Richard Tiller in taking on the future development and management of the Putting Green starting with the 2014 season.
- f) The IoWC agreed to an extension of the Town Council's management of the Putting Green for one year on this basis while discussions continued about its future.

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**2)    OPTIONS**

- a) Those discussions began on 10 July this year with the IoWC restating its need to maximise the income from the Putting Green and indicating that comparisons with equivalent sites put its value at £5,000pa.
- b) The options presented at this stage were either that the IoWC took over the full management of the Putting Green or that Ventnor Town Council continued in that role supported by an agreement to pay a rent of around £4,000pa.
- c) As discussions with Jackie Tiller had included her interest in taking on the cleaning of the toilets in view of their importance to the facility, a third option was put forward by the Clerks involving the Town Council taking on the management of the Ventnor Park Toilets as the equivalent of the £4,000 income the IoWC expected.
- d) The IoWC has subsequently confirmed that the current annual costs of that toilet are £4,027, of which £1,932 is the cleaning cost.

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**3)    NEXT STEPS**

- a) A meeting of officers has been arranged for Wednesday 12 November between the Clerks and the IoWC's Trish Stillman, Sean Newton and Paul Hargreaves at our office.
  - b) Jackie Tiller remains extremely keen to continue in the role and there is widespread appreciation of her management of the Green this year.
  - c) Members are asked to consider the respective acceptability of the options above.
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