



# PUTTING GREEN 2013

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

10 SEPTEMBER 2012

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the latest developments in the management of the Putting Green as the basis for a decision about the arrangements for 2013.

---

**No.    DETAIL**

---

**1)    BACKGROUND**

- a) Members will recall that following the resignation of Sue and Chris Cooper at the conclusion of the 2011 season the Isle of Wight Council indicated its interest in the facility and claimed the right to operate it.
  - b) The outcome of discussions by the Mayor and Town Clerk with the relevant Isle of Wight Council Officers was that the Isle of Wight Council would be responsible for marketing the opportunity for an operator for a two year period during which the Town Council would continue its oversight and management and retain the first £1,650 income from the operator.
  - c) The successful applicant was the manager of the Mill Bay, Will Willis, who agreed a payment structure with the Town Council and began operating the site at Easter 2012. However, serious health issues resulted in his hospitalisation that in turn left the Putting Green deteriorating in the early part of the season.
  - d) Aware of the dangers of permanent damage to the facility, Sue and Chris Cooper kindly offered to return to its operation on the same terms as those in place during their previous years with it. The offer was formally, and gratefully, accepted by the Town Council.
  - e) The family of Will Willis agreed in writing to the transfer of the right to operate the Putting Green for the remainder of the season.
  - f) The Isle of Wight Council accepted the new arrangement although it meant that their anticipated income would not be realised.
- 

**2)    CURRENT SEASON**

- a) In spite of the negative impact of poor ambient weather for a majority of the season, the Putting Green has had another year of positive contribution to the summer time of both residents and visitors.
  - b) Estimated user numbers indicate an average of 100 a day with up to five times that on a weekend with good weather. The catering provision has been extremely popular although operated from limited facilities and the restored Sunday bandstand sessions again proved very popular indeed.
- 

**3)    NEXT SEASON**

- a) Although the operator contract was issued for a two-year period, the Town Council has been informed that the contractor wishes to withdraw from the arrangement with immediate effect.
  - b) Sue and Chris Cooper have informed the Town Clerks that they are willing to continue for the 2013 season to fill the remainder of the contractual gap, leaving open the opportunity for a new recruitment process in August or September 2013 for a more long-term arrangement
- 

**4)    RECOMMENDATION**

The Town Council is recommended to

- i) express its strong preference for the appointment of Sue and Chris Cooper as the operators of the Putting Green for the 2013 season;
  - ii) ask the Town Clerk to discuss the implications of their appointment with the Isle of Wight Council;
-

- 
- iii) authorise the Town Clerk to buy back any items essential to the operation of the Putting Green for the 2013 season; and
  - iv) agree to fund the necessary replacement of the floor of the Hut provided by the Town Council at an estimated cost of £70 and the purchase of a replacement roller for the mower.
-