Sports Field Association Report

Current Situation

The SFA is run as an Association, with its own Constitution. The Chairman is also the Secretary, Finance, Projects, Fixtures, and Head Groundsman

The SFA finances are run through the Parish Council account, with the Clerk administering. The SFA purchase items which are then reimbursed at the next Parish Council meeting up to c £1000. Larger spends are brought to Council for authorisation. Revenue is received into PC accounts. The SFA also runs its own spreadsheets.

Issues raised from Audit

The SFA is not an official sub-committee of the Parish Council, so in effect is running under its own auspices, but using Parish Council funds. This becomes an issue as outlined in the report- ‘by making payments against expected revenue prior to receipt is putting public money at risk’ and ‘all expenditure made by a council should be authorised, …published on the agenda to give electorate the opportunity to object’. ‘There is no legal power to delegate to any member of a Council the ability to spend money, which is what is happening at the moment’

**Options**

Committee

The SFA is set up as a committee. This involves making a resolution at a Parish Council meeting, and determining the Terms of Reference. (examples attached) The council decide how the committee is made up, what if any, spending powers it has, and it has to be run under the same legal framework. Other Parish councils do this, with the committee run almost the same, with regards to Agendas, minutes, meetings etc. (examples attached)

Points to consider- (I believe it is up to the Council to decide whether these are Pros or cons)

* SFA would become the Sports Field Committee
* Adhering to legal guidelines
* SFC is part of the Parish Council in the full sense, so has more control over spending, development etc
* More Parish Councillors will need to be involved and sit on the committee
* More formalised meeting set up required
* Work load spread over a number of councillors
* Finances stay in one place
* Councillors would not pay out expenses from their personal accounts and wait to be reimbursed
* Council would need to take Hire income/Expenditure into account when setting budget/precept
* If SFA is a committee of PC, then it should have a budget set as part of precept- not reliant on income expenditure
* Grant applications still made using PC accounts
* Constitution becomes invalid
* Council should ensure that there are all appropriate insurances, relevant Risk Assessments, Fire Safety Checks, PAT testing of equipment etc.

**Sports Field Association**

The SFA already has a constitution and has almost autonomy from the Parish Council, apart from submitting quotes for large purchases. In order to be an official Association, it could sub-lease the Sports Field and Pavilion

Points to consider

* Will Drayton Estates allow this sub-leasing?
* How much will it cost to have a solicitor draw up the lease
* SFA could run under its own guidelines without having to adhere to PC legislation
* SFA would be self -funded
* Separate bank account would show reduced money for Grant Application
* Current committee members would have to run the bank account
* Autonomy over spending
* Would PC still pay for insurance if they sub-lease?

These lists are not exhaustive, and further discussion may bring other points to light.