

LONGHOPE RECREATION GROUND RUNNING COSTS

In 1947, before the pavilion was built, the responsibility for managing the costs of the recreation ground lay solely with the management committee, with costs being met by the users of the facilities. As time has gone on, with maintenance costs rising and less clubs paying annual fees, Longhope parish council has had to spend more and more on the recreation ground, as this table of charity and parish council expenditure shows:

YEAR	ANNUAL CHARITY SURPLUS (SHORTFALL)	CHARITY EXPENDITURE (FROM ANNUAL RETURN)	CHARITY INCOME EXCLUDING PARISH GRANT	PARISH COUNCIL GRANT TO THE CHARITY	PARISH COUNCIL DIRECT EXPENDITURE	PARISH COUNCIL TOTAL
2015/16	13,616	46,007	58,623	1,000	2,227	3,227
2016/17	-2,061	5,715	2,054	1,600	3,839	5,439
2017/18	-6,387	8,868	881	1,600	2,727	4,327
2018/19	-2,752	5,975	1,575	1,648	4,737	6,385
2019/20	-3,423	8,635	3,532	1,680	14,087	15,767

The charity did have some funds during these years, including the legacy in 2015 from local parishioner Roger Kerslake of £58,203. However, funds have consistently decreased over time, and the closing balance for 2019/20 was £1,642.21.

Direct expenditure by the parish council includes regular costs for safety inspection of the play equipment, mowing the recreation ground, and an annual subscription to Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association. There has also been direct expenditure over the years on new play equipment. In 2019/20 there was a request to the parish council for help with improvement works to the pavilion, and also the electricity supply. The parish council approved a sum in their annual budget, and there was £10,305 capital expenditure on work to the pavilion (supported by some fundraising by the Teens Group) and £934.45 revenue expenditure on the electricity bill.

The direct expenditure figures as shown do not include the cost of insurance for the pavilion and its contents, and play equipment on the recreation ground, for which the parish council paid some £356 in 2019/20 within an overall parish insurance premium of £879.13. The parish council has approved a grant to the charity of £2,000 for 2020/21.