

# **Statement by Longhope Parish Council Trustees of The Longhope Recreation Ground Charity**

After listening to villagers' concerns at multiple council meetings, the Parish Council are currently looking at 2 options in relation to the Trusteeship and management of Longhope recreation ground.

Both options seek to resolve long standing legal irregularities in the trusteeship and management of Longhope Recreation Ground. Such irregularities risked exposing the Parish Council, past Trustees and Committee Members to undue legal and financial liabilities.

**Option 1:** The Council can vote on the published rules as-is. This would create a joint (and equal) councillor and villager committee with delegated powers in relation to the running of the Recreation Ground.

**Option 2:** The Parish Council can explore an option where the Recreation Ground, and management thereof, is handed over in its entirety to the village, with NO involvement from the Parish Council. However, to do this correctly and lawfully a new legal entity would need to be established. To that end, the Parish Council, as Charity Trustee, will need to seek specialist legal advice. During the time this would take to organize, the Council would continue to manage the recreation ground and fulfil all of its legal responsibilities as Trustee of the Charity.

A timely decision will be forthcoming from the Council, regarding which direction is to be taken, based on the viability of the new legal entity (option 2), as determined by unbiased third-party professional expertise.

The Parish Council would also like to make clear that they are unable to receive, process or retain the personal information of individuals where there has been no evidenced permission given by the data subjects, such actions are prohibited under the General Data Protection Regulations (Data Protection Act 2018)

As such the Parish Council have been unable to review the results of a 'village survey' recently submitted to them in relation to the Longhope Recreation Ground.