

**CHARITABLE TRUST COMMITTEE**  
**21/10/2025 at 6.00 pm**



**Present:** Councillor Rustidge (Chair)  
Councillors Marland, Ball, Charters (Vice-Chair) and Sheldon

Also in Attendance:

Emma Barton	Deputy Chief Executive
Alex Bougatef	Borough Solicitor
Jack Grennan	Constitutional Services

1        **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence received.

2        **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3        **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4        **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A question was received from Mr McGibbon  
“When will the committee be issuing a formal response to the  
email I sent to Cllr Rustidge on 25 August 2025?”

The Chair gave the following response to the question:  
The minutes of the last meeting of this committee from 23<sup>rd</sup> June  
include the report and discussion on the tree-planting concerns  
raised by Mr McGibbon in his email of 28<sup>th</sup> August.

While I apologise that I have not replied directly to Mr  
McGibbon’s email – the Deputy Chief Executive of the Council  
did provide an email response on 3<sup>rd</sup> September confirming a  
site visit to discuss the agreed resolutions from the committee  
meeting and the concerns he had raised.

Mr McGibbon replied to this email on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September at  
15:23 cancelling the site visit meeting stating he was awaiting a  
resolution to his emails to me.

I’m hoping following the minutes of the June meeting being  
agreed tonight, that I would like to ask the Deputy Chief  
Executive to once again write to Mr McGibbon on the  
Committee’s behalf to re-arrange the site visit and implement  
the recommendations agreed.”

The Chair invited the member of the public to speak who set out  
the nature of his concern and insisted upon a response from the  
committee. It was noted that he had met with the Chief  
Executive and the Borough Solicitor and that no response had  
been provided until after his message to Councillor Rustidge.

It was noted that the resolution of the member of the public was  
to remove all the trees, but that some of the trees may have

been beneficial, and that it was in the remit of the committee to decide this.

Members queried whether the deed expressly forbid trees being planted and it was advised that it doesn't, but notes the use of the land for playing fields. The deed also does not preclude trees from being planted on the periphery or for buildings to be built on the periphery either.

The member of the public was asked what he wanted from the meeting and it was advised he wanted some public confidence and for the public to be informed. It was also noted he wanted independent legal advice on whether any tree planting was permitted as part of the deed and whether they were beneficial to the playing fields if they were permitted. It was advised that the deed would be forwarded on to members for their information.

Councillor Sheldon put forward the following proposals to resolve the issue

- That communication between the Charitable trust and Clayton field users be improved, if and when any further works are proposed for the fields.
- That all trees are removed from the fields other than those around the perimeter of the fields.
- That regular tree inspection is made of all the trees on the fields, in line with the borough tree inspection policy.

Councillor Sheldon proposed and Councillor Ball seconded the proposals.

Members requested a recorded vote.

4 members voted in favour of the proposals – Councillors Ball, Charters, Rustidge and Sheldon

1 member voted against the proposals – Councillor Marland

**RESOLVED:** That the proposals be carried.

Members queried whether public questions could be provided to the committee in advance of the meeting in future.

## 5 **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025 be approved as a correct record.

## 6 **CLAYTON PLAYING FIELDS UPDATE**

It was noted that much of the update had been discussed during Item 4.

## 7 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it contains exempt information under paragraphs 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and it would not, on balance, be in the public interest to disclose the reports.

**SADDLEWORTH FOOTBALL CLUB PROPOSAL TO  
UPGRADE FOOTBALL PITCHES AT BISHOP PARK,  
DENSHAW**

Members noted that the report hadn't been shared with ward members and that it was not in the usual template of the council.

RESOLVED: That the report be deferred until the next meeting to allow for officer comments.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 7.15 pm