

Leisure & Recreation Committee

Date: 5th March 2026

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Subject: Review of Cricket Hire Charges — Mannington Recreation & Moredon Sporting Hub

1. Purpose

To review the pricing structure for cricket hire at Mannington Recreation and Moredon Sporting Hub (MSH), based on booking trends, benchmarking, and the Council's transition to the Rialtas booking system.

2. Background

The Parish Council provides cricket facilities at two sites:

- **Moredon Sporting Hub (MSH)**
- **Mannington Recreation**

Both sites have two artificial wickets, supporting match play and training use.

The facilities operate at different service levels and provide different operational challenges.

Moredon Sporting Hub (MSH) – current

- Midweek match: £70.00
- Weekend match: £100.00
- Staffed facility
- Changing rooms / toilets onsite
- On site management and parish offices
- Multi sport hub environment

MSH is the Council's premium cricket venue, benefiting from onsite supervision, managed access, and wider supporting infrastructure.

Booking & Pricing

Our cricket pitches are available to book on exclusive or non-exclusive use terms. Clubs and other organisations wishing to book for single events or block bookings are asked to submit their booking requirement via our online booking enquiry form.

Our prices for cricket pitch hire are:

Availability	Duration	Price (per pitch)
Weekday (Mon to Fri)	3 hours	£70
Weekend (Sat to Sun)	Full Day	£100

Mannington Recreation - Current

- Midweek training: £12.00 per hour (typically 3 hours – £36.00)
- Midweek match: £120.00 (including changing rooms and parking)
- Weekend training: £16.00 per hour
- Weekend match: £160.00 (including changing rooms and parking)

Mannington is a large open recreation ground with limited on site supervision.

Operational challenges include:

- Unstaffed changing rooms
- Access and key management arrangements
- Monitoring facility use
- Risk of damage or misuse
- Administrative time managing hourly and match based charging

There has been very limited organised match play under the existing pricing structure.

Total bookings for 2025/2026 - £288.00

3. Current Issues

The existing arrangements present several challenges:

- Significant pricing disparity between the two sites
- Complex charging structure (hourly + match fees)
- Limited uptake of match play at Mannington
- Operational risks relating to access and supervision
- Confusion for hirers regarding what is included
- Administrative burden managing variable charges

Additionally, the Council is transitioning from Bookly to the Rialtas booking system, providing an opportunity to simplify pricing structures and align charges with a more efficient booking and financial management process.

This is therefore an appropriate time to review and standardise charges.

4. Benchmarking Context

A review of comparable UK local authority pricing indicates most councils operate tiered structures based on facility provision, typically including:

- Pitch only hire
- Additional charges for changing facilities
- Higher charges for staffed or premium venues

Typical public sector ranges:

- Pitch only: £40.00 – £70.00 per match
- Maintained/artificial wicket: £60.00 – £90.00
- With changing facilities: £80.00 – £120.00
- Premium staffed facilities: £90.00 – £140.00

The Council's MSH pricing falls within normal sector parameters.

5. Proposed Pricing Structure

Moredon Sporting Hub (Unchanged)

- Midweek match: £70.00
- Weekend match: £100.00
- Includes changing facilities, parking, and staffed site access

This maintains the Hub's position as the Council's premium cricket facility.

Mannington Recreation (Revised Charges)

- Midweek play (including changing rooms and parking): £50.00
- Weekend match (including changing rooms and parking): £80.00

This proposal:

- Simplifies the current charging structure
- Removes hourly training charges for match bookings
- Encourages greater organised use of the facility
- Reflects the lower level of supervision compared to MSH
- Positions Mannington as an accessible community venue
- Supports positive, structured use of the recreation ground

The revised rates align more closely with local authority benchmarks while recognising the site's community setting.

6. Cleaning, Maintenance and Security

Mannington Recreation operates with limited on-site supervision. The provision of changing facilities requires clear expectations to ensure they remain clean, safe, and fit for purpose.

Under the revised arrangements:

- Hirers will be required to leave changing rooms and associated areas in a clean and tidy condition.
- Clear hire conditions will be issued as part of the Rialtas booking process.
- The Council reserves the right to recover costs for additional cleaning, repairs, or damage resulting from misuse.

Income generated from cricket hire at Mannington will contribute directly towards:

- Routine inspection and cleaning
- Ongoing maintenance of changing facilities
- Repair of wear and tear
- Management of access arrangements
- Protection of Council assets

This approach supports the sustainability of the facility and ensures continued community availability.

7. Implementation

Subject to Committee approval:

- The revised charges will take immediate effect.
- Charges will be incorporated into the Council's formal Fees and Charges Schedule.
- The Rialtas booking system will be configured to reflect the new structure.
- Existing users will be formally notified.
- The pricing structure will be reviewed after one full cricket season.

8. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to approve the revised cricket facility hire charges as follows:

- **Moredon Sporting Hub:** £70.00 midweek / £100.00 weekend
- **Mannington Recreation:** £50.00 midweek / £80.00 weekend (including changing rooms and parking)

This simplifies administration, aligns pricing with service provision, encourages structured use of Mannington Recreation, and maintains the premium positioning of Moredon Sporting Hub.