

Minutes of the **OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** extraordinary meeting held at Pembury Baptist Church, Romford Road, Pembury on **Monday 6 November 2023** at 6:45pm.



Councillors Present:

Cllr C Snow (Chair)
Cllr M Barrett
Cllr J Webster

Cllr D Reilly (Vice-Chair)
Cllr M Weaver

Also in attendance:

Helen Munro (Clerk)

- 23/246. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** There were none.
- 23/247. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** There were none.
- 23/248. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.** There were none
- 23/249. **OPEN SESSION.** There were no members of the public present.
- 23/250. **TENNIS COURTS.** A request to consider the installation of floodlighting on the tennis courts was discussed.

Research on the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) recommended specification was reported.

Cllr Weaver entered the meeting at 6:49pm.

The likely set up costs were in the region of £30,000 which included equipment and installation. It did not include professional costs, or the provision of a new electricity supply and groundworks required. It was possible to consider future Section 106 funding to provide this

The LTA recommended provision of a sinking fund to cover the cost of replacement which would be in the region of £3,500 per annum. Ongoing annual maintenance costs were £600 to £1,000. Electricity would be on top of these costs and dependent on usage.

A meter could be installed to charge users for the electricity used, however, this would not cover the whole cost of the floodlighting. The LTA recommended a charge of £5 per hour.

There were several concerns about the proposal including the significant set up, running and replacement costs, the potential nuisance to neighbouring properties from light and noise pollution, it was contrary to the Pembury Neighbourhood Plan's Dark Skies policy, the requirement to

open the recreation ground for longer periods and the impact on staff closing the facilities and the lack of evidence that enough residents would use this facility.

The benefits of floodlighting included encouraging residents to exercise more and the positive impact on their mental health.

After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the project would not be progressed due to the high set up and running costs and impact on neighbouring properties.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7:08pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chairman