

PITSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Policy on the use of the Recreation Ground/Village Green

1. INTRODUCTION

The land in front of Pitstone Memorial Hall is a registered Village Green and is also held under Charitable Trust with the objects of providing facilities and open space for the inhabitants of the parish of Pitstone and the surrounding areas to freely enjoy for leisure, recreation, and sport. Both sets of legislation apply. The Parish Council, as Corporate Body, is Sole Trustee to the Recreation Ground Charity and responsible for the Village Green.

2. USE BY PITSTONE MEMORIAL HALL HIRERS

Regular hall hirers (eg commercial classes/community groups) are welcome to utilise the green for infrequent use (eg on sunny days, 2 or 3 times a week), free of charge, on the following conditions:

- Groups must possess the necessary public liability insurance to conduct these classes on a village green/charitable field/outside space (some only cover your classes indoors). Please supply a copy of your insurance to the Parish Council. As a commercial event that is not organised by the parish council, your activity is not covered by our insurance.
- The hirer should conduct a risk assessment prior to undertaking your classes and carry out a visual check of the area you will be working in prior to each session, as we only litter pick twice per week so there could be dog fouling/broken glass etc. As a charity, the village green cannot be financially disadvantaged by your hire of the land and therefore we cannot arrange for more frequent checks by our employees.
- Legislation states that the green must be freely available for use by the local residents at all times. It is not permissible for you to rope off an area for your use or for other people to be restricted from using the village green. Please be aware that other users may therefore 'join in' your class and you would not be able to prevent this.
- Please be respectful of existing green hirers eg there may already be football or cricket training/matches in progress (for which these groups have occupational licences and pay the extra costs of utilising the charitable field for their sport); we may already have agreed the use of the recreation ground by a hall party user; or our staff may be at work.
- Please be respectful of our neighbours and other users. Any music etc taken outdoors must be kept to a reasonable volume so as not to disturb others and your group must be responsible for all PRS/Music licences required as the Village Green/Recreation Ground are not licenced.
- No other licensable activities may take place without the prior knowledge/agreement of the parish council, as the green is not licenced for the sale or consumption of alcohol etc.
- It is a criminal offense to damage a village green and charges may therefore be brought in extreme circumstances. The charity cannot be financially disadvantaged by your hire and therefore, if you take equipment etc out onto the green and it causes damage to the surface (eg drag marks or holes), then the parish council will be required to charge your group for the necessary repairs.
- Legislation states that it is not possible to charge residents for their use of the green. Therefore, if you plan to charge for your class, it would be more appropriate to collect your fees from the room you book at the Memorial Hall or prior to your customer attending your class.
- The Recreation Ground Charity (which owns the village green) is a separate entity to the Pitstone Memorial Hall Charity (which owns the hall itself). The parish council does not own, or have any executive function in relation to, the Pitstone Memorial Hall Charity – they

are entirely separate. Your group is still required to fulfil the Terms and Conditions of any booking with the hall i.e. pay for your room booking, use of the toilets/kitchen etc.

- Your class/company is responsible for ensuring that all relevant legislation is complied with, throughout your use of the village green, including health & safety, coronavirus guidelines etc.
- Any complaints received relating to your use of the green will be referred to your group for action.
- Please leave the village green clean and tidy on departure.

3. USE BY OTHER COMMERCIAL OPERATORS

If you are a commercial operator wishing to run any kind of classes or activities from the Recreation Ground / Village Green, without also hiring the Memorial Hall, you must seek (and have obtained) the permission of the Parish Council before using the Recreation Ground for the desired purpose.

It is at the parish council's discretion in any individual case whether such permission is given. All the terms stipulated under Clause 2 above, will still apply to any such permitted use of the Recreation Ground. Use of the Recreation Ground for commercial purposes without the permission of the parish council is, it follows, strictly prohibited.

4. WITHDRAWAL OF PERMISSION

The parish council also reserves the right to withdraw permission for any group (whether or not also a hirer of the Memorial Hall facilities) should any breach of the conditions take place or complaints be received, or should the council otherwise consider it inappropriate that a previously-granted permission remains in place.

5. REVIEW

This policy was adopted by Pitstone Parish Council on ...5/5/22.. Minute Ref: ...SL21/22.3.

and will be reviewed at least annually.

D Nicholls

Chairman