

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

14th DECEMBER 2021

MANSTOW FOOTBALL CLUB

Members may be aware that negotiations with the Club to renew their lease have been ongoing for some time.

Discussions stalled when the issue of the protection of the veteran oak trees reduced the usable space within their demise.

The Council agreed to retain the management of the trees, and although they are not protected by Tree Preservation Orders, they would be if they were not publicly owned. They are at least 250 years old and form part of the parkland landscape of the area.

To verify that our requirements to protect the trees in the lease were sound, the opinion of the South Hams Tree Officer was sought, they raised some concerns about the condition of the trees and the proximity of the pitches.

A further detailed aerial survey was commissioned urgently (attached).

The urgent tree works listed have been commissioned and will take place w/c 20 December 2021.

The proposed realignment of the pitches will cause some issues for the Club and so a detailed proposal from them is expected soon and the Town Clerk will work with our advisor to find a compromise that both protects the trees but also allows the Club to maximise the available space.

Rent

Although I can find details of heads of terms for the lease, I can find no indication of any rent level discussions.

Currently the Club pay £576.78 per year.

Members are requested to discuss if this level should be maintained, or if a review of, if possible, comparable leases elsewhere and their rent levels should take place for consideration by the Committee before the new lease is agreed and signed.

Jonathan Parsons
Town Clerk