



DATCHET PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING: Wednesday 21st October 2026 (Extraordinary Meeting)

AGENDA ITEM: 26/163

Report to Council Dated: 17th October 2026

Report Prepared By: Cllr. Susan Young

Agenda Motion

To agree and approve a mechanism for addressing upcoming expenditure relating to the Datchet Recreation Centre Charitable Trust (DRCCT), to be met initially by Datchet Parish Council in its capacity as Sole Corporate Trustee, with all such costs to be recovered from the DRCCT in due course once funds are available.

Background and Context

If not done so already, any councillor with a disclosable pecuniary interest or other registrable interest relating to this matter should declare that interest and act in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct and applicable legislation.

Datchet Parish Council (DPC), in its capacity as the sole trustee of the Datchet Recreational Centre Charitable Trust (DRCCT), is currently defending itself against legal action brought about by two individuals.

DPC has also taken additional action in order to protect the assets of the DRCCT, which include the Sabatini Land and the complex of buildings on it which include Datchet Village Hall and the DPC offices.

This has necessitated additional unbudgeted expenditure, which is itemised in a separate paper (Agenda Item 26/164) which follows this item. These are due for payment in the near future. Council should also be aware that there may be additional future expenditure in relation to this matter, therefore the total exposure could be considerably more.

These items of expenditure must be approved at a full meeting of DPC. In due course, the intention is that these be recharged to DRCCT once funds are available.



The expenditure detailed within this report and in the next paper arises directly from actions taken by Datchet Parish Council in its capacity as Sole Corporate Trustee of DRCCT. Such actions have been necessary to protect charitable property, secure access to Trust assets, maintain the operational continuity of the Charity, and enable the Trustee to fulfil its statutory and fiduciary obligations. It is therefore the Council's view that these costs constitute legitimate Trust expenditure and should be reimbursed by DRCCT at the earliest opportunity once control of Trust funds and banking arrangements has been re-established.

There are a number of options whereby DPC can address this matter, as set out on the following page.

Options Available to the Council

Option 1: Temporary Recoverable Advance to DRCCT (Recommended)

- DPC, acting separately from its role as Corporate Trustee, may make a temporary recoverable advance to DRCCT to meet expenditure incurred in protecting and managing Trust assets.
- The recoverable advance would need to be documented by formal Council resolution, recording the sums advanced, the purpose of the expenditure, and the expectation of repayment.
- A clear audit trail will be maintained identifying all expenditure chargeable to DRCCT. All expenditure incurred on behalf of DRCCT will be separately identified within the Council's accounting records to ensure transparency, auditability and full recovery.
- Repayment will be made as soon as is reasonably practicable following the restoration of access to Trust banking arrangements and funds.
- This option preserves DPC's operational and emergency reserves whilst ensuring that urgent DRCCT expenditure can be met.
- The arrangement recognises that the expenditure is not DPC expenditure in substance, but expenditure incurred on behalf of DRCCT, pending access to Trust funds.

Option 2: Temporary Use of Council Reserves

- DPC could temporarily fund the expenditure directly from its reserves.
- Such expenditure would be separately accounted for and recovered from the Trust at the earliest opportunity.



- However, the sums required are anticipated to significantly reduce, and potentially exceed, the Council's available emergency reserves. **See paper under 26/164 below.**
- This is likely to adversely affect DPC's ability to respond to genuine emergencies or unforeseen expenditure.
- In view of the above, the use of reserves is considered a less desirable option except as an interim measure pending implementation of a formal loan arrangement.

Option 3: External Borrowing

- DPC could investigate external borrowing, including Public Works Loan borrowing if appropriate and legally available.
- Whilst preserving reserves, this option would incur interest and administrative costs.
- Given the expectation that DRCCT will reimburse expenditure once banking control is restored, this option may represent an unnecessary financial burden, unless recovery is likely to be significantly delayed.

Conclusion

This expenditure has been necessarily incurred in order to discharge its duties as sole trustee and to protect the assets of the Trust.

DPC is requested to approve the establishment of a temporary recoverable advance facility from DPC to DRCCT, funded initially from Council cash balances, for expenditure properly attributable to DPC acting in its capacity as Sole Corporate Trustee of DRCCT.

Such expenditure shall be separately identified, recorded and reimbursed in full from DRCCT funds upon restoration of access to Trust banking arrangements.

Cllr. Susan Young
Chair – Finance Committee
17th October 2026