

**To: Policy, Resources & Personnel Committee**

**From: Sue Markides, Deputy Clerk /Jason Mansbridge Grounds Manager**

**Date: 17 November 2021**

**Subject: To consider proposal from NFDC relating to land at Church Lane, Fawley**

**1. Purpose of report**

1.1 To inform Councillors of the proposal received from NFDC relating to land at Church Lane, Fawley.

**2. Recommendations**

2.1 To not accept the offer from NFDC to take a 99 year lease of Land at Church Lane, Fawley at a peppercorn rate.

**3 Background and information**

3.1 The Parish (FPC) Council currently leases Churchfields Open Space from the District Council on a 99 year lease dated 25/03/1993 for a peppercorn rate.

3.2 The District Council is responsible for the adjoining area as per the map attached as Appendix A.

3.3 The Parish Council gives permission annually to the Fawley Show to use the Churchfields Open Space and as this event has increased in size the co-ordinator has asked permission from NFDC to use the adjoining land.

3.4 The District Council have advised that the shows proposals are incompatible with NFDC's plans for its use as open space and would like to offer the parish council the opportunity to lease the land which would enable FPC to control its management and give the option for the show to use this land.

3.5 FPC would be required to maintain the area including paths, hedges, trees, grassed areas and ditches.

3.6 FPC would be required to bear its own legal costs if proceeding with the lease and there is currently no budget for this.

3.7 The Grounds Manager has estimated that the basic cost of maintaining this extra land would be in the region of a minimum of £1500 pa.

**4. Reasons for recommendations**

4.1 The land is not required by FPC and the current structure of the Grounds Team would mean that it would struggle to maintain the area to the standard required.