What is the RGMC?

The RGMC is the Recreation Ground Management Committee.

In 1923 the land we know as the Cowling Main Recreation Ground was gifted to the Parish, and the deeds given to the Parish Council. The deeds contain a covenant, the 1923 Covenant , which stipulates the Recreation Ground must be managed by a separate Committee with full decision-making powers, and the powers to do whatever is legally necessary to carry out its responsibilities.

Legal opinions confirm the Covenant must be observed, but given the important role of the Parish Council a mechanism was needed to ensure the ability for the RGMC and the Parish Council to work together in a unified and aligned manner, whilst at the same time observing the instructions set out in the 1923 Covenant.

Additionally the Covenant makes no provision for the continuity of life time members, a concept which is not acceptable in today's world, and neither does it clarify the relationship between the committee and the Parish Council.

To address this, in 2023, 100 years after the Covenant was signed, the 2023 Constitution was signed between the RGMC and the Parish Council which aims to clearly set out the working relationship between the RGMC and the Parish Council so that the principles of the 1923 Covenant are observed, but provision is made so that the governance is workable.

It does not and cannot replace the 1923 Covenant. It helps define the relationship between the RGMC and the Parish Council and ensures the requirements of the 1923 Covenant are observed.

Charity Registration – charity number 1205753

The RGMC successfully registered as a charity on 16 November 2023 under the name Cowling Recreation Ground and War Memorial Charity, also known as the RGMC.

The Charity's Governing Document reflects the principles set out in the 2023 Constitution which in turn reflects the instructions of the 1923 Covenant.

The reason the RGMC decided to register as a charity is to enable the RGMC to access available grants and funds needed to carry out the necessary works to develop and maintain the Recreation Ground, and to limit the liability of the volunteers.

If the Charity ceases to exist, the committee continues and the 2023 Constitution becomes the document of reference, which of course also reflects the requirements of the 1923 Covenant.

If the committee dissolves, another must be established immediately in order to comply with the 1923 Covenant as the Recreation Ground can only be managed by a separate committee