



Pensford Tennis Club **Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)**

BECOMING A CIO

Pensford Tennis Club, Somerset became a CIO in October 2025 following advice from Avon Tennis. The process wasn't as daunting as it seemed, and it didn't cost anything.

We don't expect the club to change but CIO status protects trustees & committee members from personal financial liability & makes the club more attractive to grant funders. The club had to meet the CIO requirements, and its main purpose must be charitable.

1. The club had to create a new constitution with aims and objectives that would form the framework for the CIO. There is more than one model on the Charity Commission website, and the club used the Foundation Model who's only voting members are its charity Trustees.
2. The club's aim was 'To promote community participation in healthy recreation, by providing and maintaining facilities for the playing, learning, and teaching of tennis and other recreational or other leisure time occupations with the object of improving the health and wellbeing of the population of Pensford and the surrounding areas.'
3. There is a model framework for the constitution on the Charity Commission website that needed to be adapted. Care must be taken to make sure that the current model constitution (2023 version) is used as the law changed in 2022, but the old framework is still online and hasn't been deleted. There are a couple of local club's constitutions on the web which were helpful (but these used the old framework).
4. The club appointed 3 Trustees, our President, Chair of the Club Committee and a long-standing member. We intend to inform all members at next week's AGM (November 2025) on the changes to the Clubs Constitution and that we have adopted the CIO structure.
5. We submitted our constitution for registration with the Charity Commission. It said that this would take up to 40 days but ours was approved in 4 days!

BUILDING A PAVILION

In 2020, the committee decided that they had to replace the 'shed' which was deteriorating and was too small for our needs. The 'shed' only provided switches for the floodlights and some storage but there wasn't anywhere for members to meet and shelter .

We considered adapting a steel container but eventually decided that a log cabin design would be most appropriate for our rural area.

Initially, we chose a local supplier and started the planning process in the autumn of 2020 with B&NES. We went through various planning stages with them including pre-planning, planning and a non- material amendment when we changed suppliers.

The process wasn't completely straightforward. We changed suppliers due to communication problems with the original contractor. This proved to be a good move. Garden Affairs, Trowbridge (who had supplied a garden room to a committee member) took over the whole process from us including installation and were prepared to give advice and address any concerns.

Also, we were very lucky to have on the committee someone who had owned a building company. His expertise was invaluable. Planning permission was granted in May 2022 on condition that we had an arboreal assessment on the iconic horse chestnut tree which was very close to the pavilion's site. Barriers had to be placed around the tree, and we had to be careful not to break the tree's roots.

The pavilion was opened in June 2023 and cost circa £30,000. It was largely funded by donations from members, grants from a couple of local charities, a loan from the LTA and fundraising.

It has electricity, plumbing, water, WIFI and an electronic locking system with fobs for adult members, but no WC.

We were very lucky to have some very generous members who have donated kitchen cabinets, a fridge, floor coverings, tables and chairs etc.

The pavilion has made a huge difference to the club socially as we are able to offer a member of the community tennis and a place to shelter afterwards with refreshments. We now have mixed tennis Monday, men's tennis Tuesday, ladies tennis Wednesday, walking tennis Thursday and club night Friday evening all with refreshments.



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