

Kirkbymoorside Town Council
Information for meeting on Monday 18 October 2021

Agenda item 13. To receive information regarding drainage of the pitch at the sports field

Minute of the Ordinary Town Council meeting dated 15 February 2021

20206 Questions to the Chair

Cllr Dowie asked if it would be possible to liaise with the cricket and football clubs and ascertain if there are any funding opportunities available to sports organisations to address the drainage of the pitch which is often waterlogged resulting in training sessions and matches having to be relocated to alternative pitches.

22 February 2021 email received from Alex Strickland following conversation with the Town Clerk pursuant to Minute 20206:

As discussed myself & Rebecca Bowsher are looking to get some funding from the football foundation towards improving the playing surfaces at the sports field.

We would like to carry out drainage works & buy some new plant machinery to maintain the field properly.

Part of the application process is to provide quotes for the drainage of the field.

Which I can't seem to get a response from any online companies.

I have attached a FA document which has information on the drainage requirements needed for a football pitch.

I hope you can help us out it would be most appreciated.

25 February 2021 the Town Clerk made enquiries of the following organisations/companies:

Shelton Sports Turf Drainage Ltd – quotation received on 1 March 2021

enquiries@turfdry.com Turf Dry; info@york-sport.com – York Sport Village

paul.ramskill@york.gov.uk:

The best person to speak to would be Andy Clay from the North Riding County FA. His details are attached below in an image. Andy will hopefully be able to supply you with a list of suitable contractors to do the work. It may be that Andy is on furlough, and only sporadically picking up emails so please copy your email to support@northridingfa.com too.



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Football Development Manager
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Company Registration Number 4233259

Paul

Paul Ramskill | Community Sports Development Manager

t: 01904 553372 (direct number) | m: 07767 318030 | e: paul.ramskill@york.gov.uk

25 February 2021 Information received from Andy Clay, Football Development Manager, North Riding FA:

There is a pitch report for this site/pitch(s) which is used by Kirkbymoorside Football Club (including youth teams): The Sports Field, New Road, Kirkbymoorside which makes some recommendations around ground maintenance.

Looking at the report (completed 1.4.20) it recommends the following:

The purpose of the visit was to assess the pitch and make suggestions on how to produce better playing surfaces for longer and limit the number of cancellations. A multi-sport site its used 12 months of the year, they do very well to home so many teams and site so many different size pitches. The site is made up from a loamy and clay soil which naturally impedes drainage, the site does however fall from north to south which should help shed some rainwater in winter months. All the pitches have the cricket outfield as part of their pitch, the junior pitches were in good condition, with a good coverage of grass, the senior 11 aside pitch was quite the opposite, home to as many as 5 teams this pitch never gets a rest and a thread bare surface is unfortunately the result.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The main pitch has had some basic maintenance over the years, it is sprayed for weeds every year which is no surprise, with so little grass left after a full season, the only plants that dominate bare ground are weeds. Perennial weeds were present, and weed infestation is an ongoing issue, it is important to treat the weeds and over seed the pitch soon after. The seed will fill in the gaps the weeds leave, the more grass there is the less opportunity there will be later for weeds to establish. This will need repeating annually because of the amount of use the main pitch gets, timing and quality of grass seed is important for maximum establishment. If done properly as vast difference will be noticed on the playing quality of the pitch. Consider applying a granular fertilizer, either at the start of spring to maximise the establishment of the seed or the end of summer to provide the grass plants will add nutrition going into the Autumn/Winter period. Work with a contractor and seed/fertilizer representative to find the correct products for your site Deep vertical tine aeration is needed in Autumn, this is to open the surface to allow rainwater to penetrate throughout the winter months. Timing of this operation is key, the ground still needs to be quite firm, this helps a shattering process adding to the drainage capabilities, if left too late and the ground is too wet the success of the process decreases.

The current machinery is not fit for purpose, it's too small to maintain this size of site. A new tractor with a cutting deck would allow the club to carry on mowing the site. A tractor mounted combination multi tool would allow the club to maintain the site to a higher standard by allowing basic maintenance to take place at suitable times. Any new tractor would require the horsepower and lift capacity for a cutting deck and possible attachments.

It would be good to get an understanding as to what maintenance has been carried out over the past year? As the summary suggests, poor drainage is usually the result of compaction on the surface, which is why it recommends *deep vertical tine aeration*. What I don't want you to do is spend a lot of money on an expensive drainage scheme, if the issue can be resolved through a better maintenance programme (and potentially new equipment that the club can utilise).

From a funding point of view, the Football Foundation will fund what has been recommended above – so it is essential that we look at this first.

25 February 2021 The Town Clerk ensured disclosure of all information between the affected parties

26 February 2021 Information submitted to Andy Clay, North Riving FA by Kirkbymoorside Football Club:

Thank you for the email correspondence so far with Lisa.

Myself & Rebecca Bowsher are trying to get progressed with the maintenance grant for our sports field. Rebecca is putting the grant application together & it requires quotes from 2 contractors for the drainage work.

As you can see from the photos attached the bottom side of the main pitch & the junior pitches is badly affected by standing water.



Last year we had Simon race seed the main pitch in May & vertidraind at the end of August. The whole field was sprayed for weeds by a local contractor in June. We added fertiliser to the whole field in September also.

We received a £1500.00 grant last year for pitch maintenance but the club paid for the majority of the work.

Lisa Bolland from the Kirkbymoorside Town Council has kindly got involved to progress the pitch maintenance grant process.

1 March 2021 Quotation for drainage works provided by Shelton Sportsturf Drainage Ltd forwarded to Kirkbymoorside Football Club

3 March 2021 Information received from Andy Clay regarding funding

Are you looking to approach the Football Foundation for funding? The reason why I ask is, they are due to launch a new pitch maintenance fund (hopefully March), so it may be worth us waiting until we get the details of this/what's available before anything is decided?

What we can do in the meantime (so that we have the club in the system for any potential fund that is being released) is do a self-assessment via the Pitch Power programme. It's fairly straight forward to follow - you just need a smartphone, a spade and a tape measure!

<https://footballfoundation.org.uk/pitchpower-fags?>

Just click the link below to get started.

<https://footballfoundation.org.uk/pitchpower>

Once you've completed, this information will be shared with Ian Powell (our Regional Pitch Advisor) where he will then create a report, along with recommendations. On receipt of the report, we can then look at what these recommendations are and advise on funding avenues accordingly. (appreciate you had a report done about 18 months ago, but it will help if you are still having drainage issues, & this is a requirement for the new funding).

12 April 2021 Information from Kirkbymoorside Football Club regarding machinery

Machinery required.

Compact tractor with cab 3 point linkage system. £24,000.00 plus VAT

Combination turf groomer combining slitter, brush & roller. £3,000.00

Mower attachment. £7,000.00

The machinery we have doesn't help the decomposition of the pitches. Unfortunately our mower needs to be replaced.

16 April 2021 The Town Clerk liaised with Mr Gibson with regards to contacts in the FA. Mr Gibson recommended collaboration with Helena Bowman, Head of the Middlesborough Football Club Foundation and Community and Business Support at Middlesbrough Football Club.

10 May 2021 The Town Clerk arranged a meeting with the Kirkbymoorside Football Club representatives and Helena Bowman to discuss the need for drainage and potentially maintenance equipment for the Kirkbymoorside pitch and facility for Kirbymoorside FC.

3 August 2021 Information received from Kirkbymoorside Football Club on the status of pitch drainage:

There won't be any ground drainage done for 6 years.

In order to get a grant towards land drainage I have to provide a 6 year plan of maintenance.

We are currently raising funds to buy the equipment required to carry out the required maintenance.