

## **TUTBURY PARISH COUNCIL (TPC)**

**Emergency meeting 04.07.19 Charity House, Duke Street. 10.30am**

**To consider the use of the football pitch by Hatton United Girls team.**

Present R Lock, (Chairperson), Cllr K England (Vice Chair)  
C Smedley, Cllr L Anderson, in attendance, Karen Duffill (Clerk  
C Gooding Tutbury Tigers junior manager.

**06E/19/1.0 Apologies;** F Crossley, D Morris, L Evans, W Crossley, T Spencer Smith

### **06E/19/2.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

2.1 Tutbury Tigers representative requested that the pitch use would be by one Hatton Girls Team only and not a slot to use the pitch for all Hatton United teams.

### **06E/19/3.0 TO CONSIDER THE USE OF THE FOOTBALL PITCH BY HATTON UNITED JUNIOUR GIRLS TEAM.**

3.1 The chair explained why the meeting had been called, due to the time sensitive nature of the decision required. The football teams need to confirm their pitch use prior to the new football season commencing. The topic of discussion was not given enough time at the previous meeting to make a decision.

3.2 The chair provided a summary of the work that has been done by the playing fields committee and the clerk. Currently there are no girls' teams in the Tutbury Tigers squad, and it was confirmed that there are Tutbury residents that play in this team (C Gooding, the Tutbury Tigers Junior manager estimated this at 50% of the Hatton girls team). There is usually a mix of Tutbury and Hatton residents that play in each Tutbury Tigers and Hatton United teams. Concern had been raised from council members that pitch would be overplayed. The clerk has had a meeting with the football teams and there is enough room for two pitches to be marked out in different colours in two positions. With moveable goal posts it is possible to rotate the pitches to minimise overuse of one pitch. The clerk has contacted other councils to check what usage and number of teams play on pitches (including Lichfield, Stretton & Hilton) and this usage is lower than other pitches.

### **3.3 Pitch Use**

A pitch review had been received advising that more frequent grass cutting was recommended to avoid excessive grass mulch on the pitch. The Hatton United manager has offered to cut and mark out the pitch instead of paying for the pitch. There are approximately 12 home fixtures planned in the season. For the Parish Council to cut the pitch weekly this would require 12 extra cuts at a cost of £720. The grass would be cut by Hatton United football teams by the same contractor who cuts the grass at the Churchyard. A council member stated that the church was very pleased with the new contractor at the church and the Triangle, and that the condition of footpaths has improved.

3.4 A council member questioned what agreement would be put in place as an informal agreement may mean that the grass would not be cut if a game was cancelled. The Tutbury Tigers junior manager believed that the matches would be most likely cancelled due to pitch conditions, which would also preclude cutting at that time. However, if there were cancellations due to not enough players then this would need to be considered. A member questioned whether it would be more formal if the Girls team were charged for the pitch rather than payment in lieu. However, the clerk informed members the cost of a junior pitch is around £35 per match so this would not cover the extra mowing recommended by the pitch review to benefit the pitch. It was instead suggested that by relieving the existing Tutbury Tigers of their need to apply additional cuts / marking out of the pitch themselves by undertaking this through arrangement with the Hatton team Tutbury Parish Council would potentially be able to reinstate a small charge for the other teams, with Hatton effectively paying considerably more, but in lieu.

An agreement would need to be formalised, including a reminder that the container would not be accessible by the Hatton United team. The pitch should be used by the girl's team only. The cutting schedule would be planned before the commencement of the match. If self-weighted moveable goals were used and the nets were left attached to this there would be no need to access the container. Hatton United have their own nets to use. If self-weighted goals were used and locked together the combined weight would make this option, the most secure as they would be too heavy to be removed easily. The goals would also adhere to FA standards. Quick release goal posts would need further storage options, in terms of locking down the cross bars.

The Tigers representative stated the fixtures would be released at similar times and a meeting would need to be organised to plan how in practice the cutting schedule would work in line with the existing contractor. If there were gaps in the cutting schedule the Parish council could consider extra cuts (which we have an existing contractual arrangement for) or reassess the situation.

3.5 Pitch marking needs a further meeting to decide the marking out schedule to try and avoid the lines being burnt in (as two simultaneously marked pitches could cause confusion). This would further protect the pitch.

It was generally felt that if the girls team played on Tutbury's pitch this would make the pitch more accessible to a wider group and would contribute positively to the upcoming application for support towards the cost of the new goals. It was also thought to be a positive step in light of the women's success in the recent world cup matches played this week. Council members agreed that the Cornmill lane pitch is under-utilised and this would be a positive outcome.

A member proposed to allow the Hatton United girls team play on the pitch. This was seconded and all council members present voted in favour of the proposal.

### **Resolution**

Subject to a written agreement with the Parish Council Hatton United Girls Team will use the pitch on alternate Saturdays. The Hatton united manager would cut and mark out the pitch prior to each match they play.

