

Purpose: Verbal update on the use and maintenance of the football facilities

Club Overview

- The football club is quite large — around 600 children participate across multiple locations.
 - This site hosts four teams that are based here and train regularly:
 - U9 Girls
 - U10 Mixed (though mostly boys in practice)
 - Other teams occasionally use the site for training depending on availability and weather.
-

Use of the Grounds

- Training sessions take place during the week when weather and daylight permit.
 - Weekend matches are hosted on site.
 - End-of-season events (fun days for the kids) are organized as informal social gatherings.
-

Maintenance & Groundskeeping

- Grass cutting is carried out by the football club under an informal agreement with the Parish Council.
 - Frequency: Every 10–14 days, depending on conditions and match schedules.
- Pitch care includes:
 - Application of weedkiller (scheduled/ongoing).
 - Pitch improvement via mole draining done earlier this year:
 - Creates surface lines visible across the field.
 - No pipes installed — it's compressed mud that improves water drainage.
 - Helps mitigate issues caused by the area's clay-heavy soil.

- *Note:* Can make the ground slightly uneven; one goal was reportedly affected due to the new drainage path.
-

Additional Notes

- **Shed maintenance:**
 - Cleaned annually.
 - Stores goals, pitch line markers, and general equipment — nothing of high value.
 - **Guttering Issue:**
 - Cleaned out recently, but design flaw means water overflows.
 - Leads to boggy conditions in one corner near the pavilion, though the pitches have since been moved away from that area.
 - Drainage in that part remains a problem during winter.
-

Future Considerations

- The club may seek FA funding for future pitch improvements (e.g., resurfacing, enhanced drainage).
- Any application would need:
 - Support from the Parish Council, including a commitment to continued football use over the medium term.
- Main challenge remains drainage, especially in the lower parts of the field.