

Supporting Information: September 2025

Item 12 – Padel Courts

- The Coventry Diocese, as the landowner, has given written permission in principle subject to planning permission being approved.
- According to Item 8 of our lease agreement with the NSA: The Licensor (NPC) will undertake at its sole discretion and cost any major capital expenditure at the Sports Facilities, in consultation with the Licensee (NSA). This does not preclude the Licensor from seeking contributions or support from other entities towards such costs if they so choose. The Licensor can elect to manage the delivery of such activities itself or to request that the Licensee provide management support at no charge to the Licensor. (NSA can manage the project upon NPC's request but NPC is to be the lead on any major capital expenditure project)
- Investigation into the ability of NPC being able to reclaim the VAT is still in progress and currently awaiting a response from WALC's VAT specialist.
- The creation of a working party is advised to ensure that the Council maintains the lead role on this project.
- NPC can utilise crowdfunding under Section 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, so long as the funding benefits the inhabitants of the area or of some part of it.
- The Padel Group are seeking further funding (around £15,000) from NPC to help secure outside funding. NPC started 2025/26 financial year with £5,000 in the Sports Field Contingency reserve, £2,000 has already been allocated to the Padel project, leaving £3,000 left in the reserve fund. NPC has £10,000 in village improvements and £550 in youth funds, all other funds have been allocated to other projects. It would not be advisable for NPC to use the £10,000 for village improvements as this fund will be useful in the coming years as various assets begin to reach their end of life (e.g. picnic benches). Realistically, NPC has £3,000 available to contribute beyond the £2,000 already allocated.

Item 17 – Granton Playing Field

- New multi-play unit is completely installed and open of the use.
- Cllr Watson has the surfacing and brick path quotes.
- The purchase of the new picnic benches (£1,361.00) can be funded either from the Council's existing Granton Playground Maintenance budget (£1,250.00) or from the Village Improvements Reserves fund (£10,000.00). It is recommended to use the Village Improvements Reserve rather than reducing the Playground Maintenance budget, as we are only midway through the financial year and further maintenance needs may arise. Additionally, the picnic benches are better classified as a capital investment rather than a maintenance expense.

Item 18 – Mobile Phone Mast

- Survey has been running and over 100 responses have been received. 86.6% support a new mast, 9.6% are not sure, and 3.8% do not support. Most supporters are happy if the location is appropriate.
- The next step is for Atlas to send letters to landowners that they have determined would be the best locations (previously provided). Due to having had a great response to the survey, and mostly positive views being shared, they are seeking the parish council's approval for Atlas to send the letters out. *Attached is a copy of the letter template Atlas will use. Alongside this they will provide their company leaflet with some further information and a letter from Warwickshire County Council.*

Item 20 – Allotments

Background

- Many councils allow non-parish residents to apply for allotments.
- Priority always remains with parish residents.
- This prevents unused plots becoming overgrown, which otherwise costs NPC to clear.

Legal Position

- No legislation restricts allotments to parish residents only.

Administration

- Minimal extra work required.
- Applicants already provide proof of address.
- Clerk would simply record "Napton parish" or "other parish" on the waiting list.

Insurance

- NPC insurance covers only vacant plots and shared/common areas.
- Tenants are advised (not legally required) to have their own public liability insurance.
- Issues or accidents on rented plots are the tenant's responsibility, not NPC's.
- Tenancy agreement could be updated if the council chooses to make insurance mandatory.

Benefits

- Ensures more plots are actively used.
- Generates additional rental income.
- Delivers environmental benefits (less waste/overgrowth).
- Encourages wider community collaboration.

Concerns

- Possible increase in parking pressure from outside users.
- However, some parish residents also drive and park at the site.