

24th September 2025

Dear Councillors,

Request Napton Parish Council award an operating licence to Napton Padel Club in order that the Club can build, manage and operate two padel courts at the Napton Sports Field.

Update

Napton Padel Club is generously and enthusiastically supported by the Napton Parish Council (NPC), Napton Sports Association (NSA) and Napton Tennis Club (NTC). This follows the recent survey where 98% of respondents supported the idea. A padel club situated in Napton could reasonably be expected to benefit the village by about £80,000 per annum once established.

At the last NPC meeting to discuss the Padel project, held on 15 September 2025

- Napton Parish Council and private investors rejected the option of applying for Secretary of State permission to accept Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and private loans because of the inherent time delay. This could threaten the viability of the Padel Club project due to current market dynamics. They indicated a preference that NSA should apply for planning permission, apply for the LTA loan and manage the building project.

At the NSA meeting on 16 September 2025

- NSA supported submitting the planning application. This has now been submitted in their name.
- NSA rejected the option of managing the building project and receiving the LTA and/or 0% interest private loans. This was because of the perceived risk that loans and oversight of a large capital project would have for the unprotected unlimited liability of NSA trustees.

This leaves an outstanding problem in the event of successful planning consent. There needs to be a named organisation that will receive any loans or grants associated with the padel project, run the tendering process, oversee the installation of the padel courts and subsequently operate the two padel courts. Neither NPC nor NSA wish to do that.

Therefore, it is proposed that a new organisation be set up as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and be called Napton Padel Club. As a CIO, Napton Padel Club would be able to borrow money, receive grants, employ people, agree contracts and run operations such as the proposed padel club. It also protects trustees through limited liability.

In order to progress any further, a decision is required from the Parish Council regarding the following

- **Will the NPC grant Napton Padel Club a non-exclusive operating licence similar to that already issued to NSA for the area of the sports field that would be used for the padel courts and their immediate surrounds?**

The NSA licence was negotiated originally so that no right of tenure was afforded to the NSA and specifically no legal rights to sole use of the field. Currently the NSA is the only organisation that manages activities on the sports field.

Summary of Key Points

1. NSA supports the formation of an organisation called Napton Padel Club, separate from the NSA, with charitable status.
2. NSA supports Napton Padel Club installing and managing the padel courts with costs, income and profits being retained by the Napton Padel Club for disbursements according to its constitution. See letter of support from NSA Vice Chair Dave Cooper.
3. Napton Padel Club will be a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a CIO).
4. Napton Padel Club's constitution will be similar to that of the NSA, with the charitable aims being the same i.e. "to promote sport in Napton for the benefit of the community in the Parish of Napton".
5. Napton Padel Club is a separate entity, so there is no financial jeopardy for the NSA nor the NPC.
6. Private investors are content with this option because there are fewer delays than the other options.
7. It allows the Padel Club to continue seeking loans and grants, e.g. from LTA. A three or five year licence is likely to be more successful in winning grants than a 1 year licence.
8. Napton Padel Club would work collaboratively with the Parish Council and NSA – with both organisations being invited to the committee meetings.
9. As soon as profits allow, Napton Padel Club would (according to its charitable aims) financially support the NSA and its affiliated clubs, reduce costs to villagers, and help fund suitable initiatives proposed by the Parish Council.
10. A decision not to award a licence to the Napton Padel Club means we will not be able to proceed with the project with the resultant loss of income for the village and a loss of potential benefits to the community.

Decision required

1. **To award a non-exclusive operating licence to Napton Padel Club in order that the club can build, manage and operate two padel courts at the Napton Sports Field.**

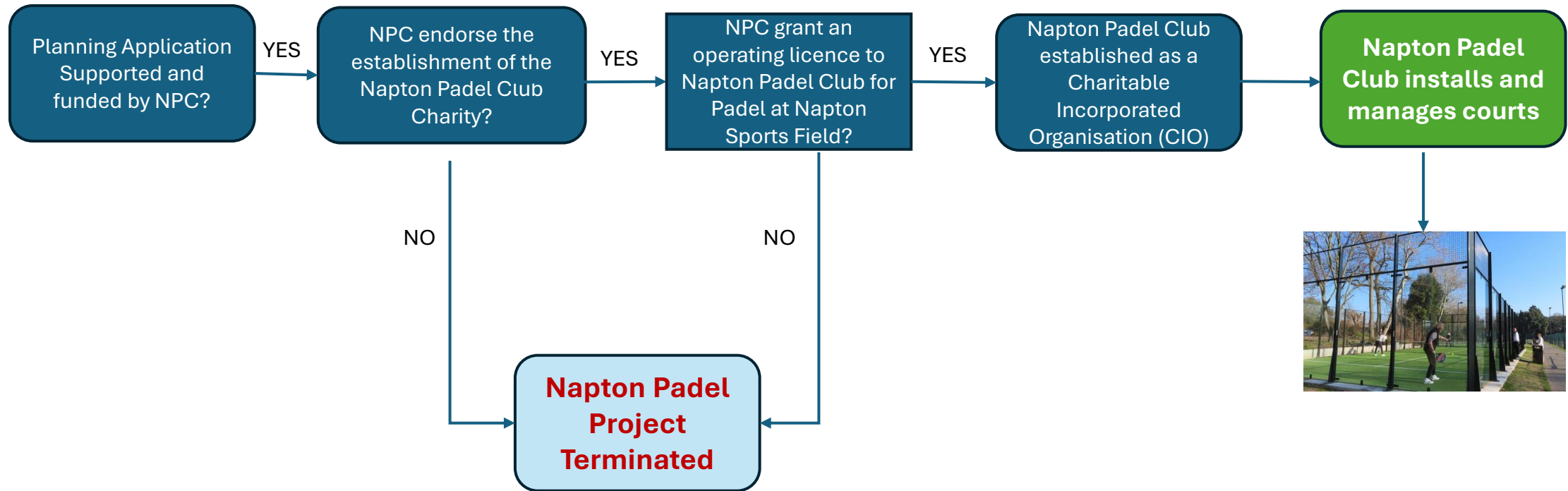
Attached Documents

1. Letter of support from NSA
2. Business plan for development of padel courts in Napton <https://tinyurl.com/3sb87d3h>
3. Decision Tree with consequences

Kind regards

Napton Padel Project Committee

Decision Tree for Parish Council





Tim Coker <timccoker@gmail.com>

Padel courts Napton Sports Field

David Cooper <cooperdavid26@gmail.com>
To: Tim Coker <timccoker@gmail.com>

23 September 2025 at 16:26

The Napton Sports Association discussed this subject at length. The NSA supports the proposal for the installation of padel courts (5 in support, none against and 2 abstentions) at the Napton sports field. It also accepts the suggestion that a new charitable organisation independent of the NSA arrange the installation and management of the courts for the benefit of the village. It supports this new charity entering discussions with the Parish Council to enable this to happen .

David Cooper
Vice Chairman NSA
Sent from my iPad