

**Extraordinary Meeting Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023**  
**Support Information for Item 8:**

***‘To consider the terms for Dynamos football pitch access against their background proposal of an FA Pitch Power grant offer.’***

**Summary**

Both Dynamos and the Saturday Football Adults Club have been interested in helping the Parish Council with improvements to the quality of the playing surface on both the Old Rec and The Moor fields.

Both pay ‘access fees’, the Dynamos through an agreed annual levy and the Saturdays on a per match basis. Dynamos, being the biggest user with multiple teams of all kinds, ages and abilities, pay the most at £2,200 per annum. Dynamos also pay the costs for pitch marking and many extra grass cuts plus some pitch maintenance such as reseeding and occasional Verti-draining – see Ian Henderson report attached.

While the Saturday’s footballers are still formulating suggestions on some kind of background support the Dynamos have entered into a serious partnership with the FA to apply for a ‘Pitch Power’ grant. This involved about 18 months of survey and soil sampling/testing to satisfy the FA of the needs. The FA assessed the results and have suggested a regime of additional work and treatments to improve the pitches. **They have made a conditional pitch improvement grant offer worth a net £36,352 spread over a six-year period.** This grant is subject to the Dynamos adding back a complementary sum totalling £11,520 over the same six-year period.

**This would make the total of added investment into the pitches of £47,782 over the six-year period.** This is money that the Parish Council would not necessarily spend, although we do spend money on grass cutting and general maintenance. The added money is intended to improve these areas above and beyond what the Parish could afford.

Dynamos see this as a poisoned chalice. They are unable to fund the requested complementary £11,520 without an unacceptable increase in fees to their wide audience of young people.

**Proposal** That the Parish Council forgive the annual pitch access fees over the six-year period, amounting to a total of £13,200 (6 x £2,200) and that Dynamos set aside that sum in order to meet the terms being set by the FA grant.

This decision if taken would need to apply to (and from) the current precept financial year as the FA grant will be withdrawn if the terms cannot be met this year. The Dynamos annual payment to the PC is as yet unpaid for this year.

Supporting documents are attached detailing the current cost covered by the Dynamos for pitch fees and maintenance, together with the grant terms being offered by FA Pitch Power.

*JWT/August 2023*

6<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Addendum to: **Historic costs of Grass Maintenance Costs for Melbourn Dynamos FC**

Melbourn Dynamos Football Club [MDFC] can confirm that the ongoing grass maintenance costs as identified relate to;

1. Payments for fortnightly grass cutting [which supplements the Council fortnightly cut];
2. Line marking [including the initial marking out of the pitches and the weekly overmarking]; and,
3. Other extra activities designed to improve the standard of the pitches: this has included verti-draining, fertilising and applying herbicides.

In the last two years increasing costs in other areas have resulted in the Club not being able to support these extra activities.

Supported by Cambridgeshire FA MDFC has undertaken a fresh Football Foundation [FF] Pitch Power application: this is a six-year tapered commitment which supports Clubs in enhancing pitch quality by supplementing certain activities. The Club was required to conduct an extensive survey of all the grass pitches we use [taking about two whole days to complete] which was then submitted to the FF.

An extensive report prepared by the FF and shared with Councillor Clark and Councillor Travis sets out the findings. Subsequent contact has indicated that the funding model would be as indicated below and which would include activities such as decompaction, fertilising, applying selective herbicides, in-season under seeding and slitting.

	Grant	Club	TPC
Year 1	9088	0	9088
Year 2	9088	0	9088
Year 3	6059	1920	7979
Year 4	6059	1920	7979
Year 5	3029	3840	6869
Year 6	3029	3840	6869
<b>Total</b>	<b>36352</b>	<b>11520</b>	<b>47872</b>

**Explanation:** The 'Grant' figures are those the FF have indicated will be contributed by them. The 'Club' figures in effect represent a financial commitment of a sinking fund of £1920pa over the six-year period. **MDFC would therefore have to dedicate £11520 to the project.**

Due to our ongoing financial commitments connected largely to pitch hire and maintenance fees plus our Astro costs the Club are not currently able to support this commitment.

**The Club therefore requests that:**

1. **MPC agrees to cancel the Club's future annual Parish Hire fee [of £2,200].** The Club would then use that money to support the project by redirecting the vast majority of the it into the sinking fund; **and,**
2. **MPC agrees NOT to reinstate the annual fee for at least the six year period of the grant funding.**

Finally, can I please make it absolutely clear that the Club will **still** have to pay the ongoing general maintenance costs as identified as this activity is NOT contained within the grant funding agreement.

Blake Carrington  
Chair  
Melbourn Dynamos FC

**Cambridgeshire FA Club of the Year 2021**

Historic costs of Grass Maintenance 2023.  
Date of review: 5<sup>th</sup> August 2023



Dear Blake,

### Historic costs of Grass Maintenance Costs for Melbourn Dynamos FC

As this report is prepared for Melbourn Parish Council purposes, the costs documented include parish grass pitches only and do not consider costs associated with Back Field, MVC or Astro (or its predecessor) costs.

The costs are based on actual spend as documented in our yearly statements and accounts submitted to Cambridgeshire FA. Records consulted include those kept by two Treasurers of the football club and I am indebted to my predecessor for the accuracy of the records maintained at that time.

A summary of relevant costs is:

Season	Parish Hire	Grass Maintenance Costs
2018/2019	£ 2,000.00	£ 6,318.00
2019/2020	£ 2,200.00	£ 3,220.78
2020/2021	£ 2,200.00	£ 9,603.36
2021/2022	£ 2,200.00	£ 4,338.17
2022/2023	£ 2,200.00	£ 4,176.75
		£ 27,657.06

This £27,657.06 over five seasons include grass cutting, specialised draining activity – sometimes enabled by grants Melbourn Dynamos are successful at securing, over-marking, 'making-safe to play', and seeding.

A huge majority of the finances that allow for this level of spend comes from parents, carers and players at the Club, most of whom live in the Melbourn PC boundary.

Should you require any further information, please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Henderson  
Club Treasurer  
Melbourn Dynamos Football Club