

**Julie Earp**

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**From:** Julie Earp <deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 26 September 2022 16:52  
**To:** Julie Earp  
**Subject:** Re: Pitches

Hi Julie

Hope you're well.  
Yes myself and one other will come along to the open spaces meeting next Tuesday.

I think we are fairly happy with things , as long as we can secure the lease on the main ground to enable us to progress the pavilion plan and have access to use the pitch in Britten's field during the summer months we are happy.

What time start and where next Tuesday. ?

Regards

Ilminster cc

On 26 Sep 2022, at 14:03, Julie Earp <deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk> wrote:

Hi

We've had responses back from the two football clubs and they both intend to come along to the Open Spaces meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> October.

Is there anything you would like to add and/or will you be attending the meeting too?

Kind regards,

Julie Earp  
Deputy Town Clerk

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**From:** Julie Earp <deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 15 September 2022 08:31  
**To:** Julie Earp <deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: Pitches

Hi Julie

Good to see you last week.  
That all looks about right.  
Some of the youth games in the evenings maybe on the main pitch if it's available, but days etc all correct.

We have a lorry coming somewhen this week to drop off loam for the winter repair work on the squares , work is being done on Friday 23rd September.

Regards

Ilminster cc.

On 14 Sep 2022, at 11:43, Julie Earp <[deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk](mailto:deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk)> wrote:

Apologies, the Open Spaces Meeting is on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October, not the 6<sup>th</sup>!

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**From:** Julie Earp <[deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk](mailto:deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** 14 September 2022 11:30  
**To:** Julie Earp <[deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk](mailto:deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** Mark Tredwin <[town.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk](mailto:town.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Pitches

Hi,

Thank you for coming to the meeting on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September. Apologies for the delay in sending out the updated information, but current events have consumed our time since last Thursday.

Please look at the attached documents, check the information, and that I have made the correct amendments and let me know if I've missed something.

As I explained before, this will be part of a report that I will be sending to the Open Spaces Committee a week prior to the meeting on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October for their consideration. Any recommendations they make will then go to Town Council on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October. Therefore, I will need any responses from yourselves **by Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September** at the very latest.

With regards to moving the goalposts at the end of the season, I have been told that Matt and 3 others (volunteers for the football club) used to move them back to the Archie Gooch Pavilion. This is what we would expect to continue to happen unless the clubs have an alternative solution that satisfies the Town Council.

Kind regards,

Julie Earp  
Deputy Town Clerk  
Ilminster Town Council  
Tel: 01460 52149



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# **ILMINSTER TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB**

## **FA CHARTER STANDARD COMMUNITY CLUB**

(FORMED 1921)

Members of the Somerset County, South West Women's and Perry Street and District Leagues

President: Chris Virgin  
Vice-President: Gary Bealey

### **Secretary**

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21<sup>st</sup> September 2022

Dear Julie

### **Re: Ilminster Town Football Club – Proposed Grandstand Pitch Conditions**

We are writing in response to the document that was presented in the meeting of Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022, and that was subsequently issued via email on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

We would initially like to express our disappointment that this document was not issued ahead of the meeting as this would have helped to ensure the meeting was productive and may have allowed us to resolve a number of the issues and questions raised in the attached report. Instead, we were blindsided by the discussions in the meeting.

From your email dated 5<sup>th</sup> August we anticipated this meeting being a discussion about our usage and requirements along with the requirements of the Town Council but in fact it was a list of requirements/requests from the Town Council.

We also are unclear as to why we were asked to discuss the Ilminster Sports club bonfire night as you should already be aware Ilminster Town FC and Ilminster Sports Club are totally separate. We were hoping this meeting would be the start of discussions to finally agree a formal license for

pitches for each club. The issue of having no up-to-date license has been ongoing for a number of years and would be a clear way of ensuring all users were aware of when and how they can use the recreational space.

We formally request that this letter and accompanying report be included alongside the report that you are issuing to open spaces, thus allowing the points raised in this document to be discussed at the Open spaces committee by councilors prior to the report reaching full council. The Football Club will be represented at the Open spaces committee, and we will be speaking ahead of the discussions.

We have addressed the points individually in the attached report.

From the tone of our response, we trust it is clear that we have a number of issues with the proposed conditions, and we fear that implementing these conditions may limit the number of participants in sport from the local community, particularly for the youth section of both the football and cricket clubs.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the reasoning behind these conditions with the Town Council, unfortunately the previous meeting did not allow this as the conditions had not been circulated prior to the meeting. Now that we have these, we request that an additional meeting take place with councilors, we appreciate that this may delay this reaching open spaces and the full council, but for the benefit of all parties we feel this is vital on a subject matter that is so large, and effects so many users.

In previous years the club have supported the Town Council in maintaining of the grounds, Matt Rowsell has given up countless hours to help the TC Grounds Team when staff numbers were low, and I know he personally is very disappointed to see that despite his efforts to work together we have reached a position where the conditions above have been proposed.

We would hope that you reconsider the conditions based on our feedback, and no doubt feedback received from both the cricket club and youth football club, and that between us we can work to a suitable compromise that allows all clubs to prosper alongside each other, as they have for many years now without such intervention.

We would also like to bring to your attention the South Somerset Playing Pitch Strategy that was done in April 2017 which looks forward to 2028. This has some great information in and follows in line with our 5-year plan of providing football for the Ilminster community.

We await your response to this letter and look forward to having the opportunity to discuss these responses and conditions with all the information on the table.

Regards



Daniel Haines

Ilminster Town FC - Chairman



CHARTER STANDARD  
COMMUNITY CLUB

# FA CHARTER STANDARD COMMUNITY CLUB ILMINSTER TOWN YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

[www.ityfc.co.uk](http://www.ityfc.co.uk)



**Chairman:** Craig Brister  
**Vice Chairman:** Jonny Watkins  
**Secretary:** Chris Snook  
**Treasurer:** Becky Bristow

21st September 2022

To the Deputy Clerk.

I don't think I offered any updates to your team usage documents in the meeting because, as we discussed, it was not possible for me to give you this year's fixtures, let alone next years. Training will also be on different days next year and many of the teams will progress to different size pitches and match times. I would also like to clarify that the timings in the current document are just an AM or PM booking on the correct days, for each team's league matches. The under 7s for example would play a 40 minute match on the 5v5 pitch, sometime on a Sunday AM and only when they have a home fixture. They would not use the pitch from 9-12:30 every Sunday.

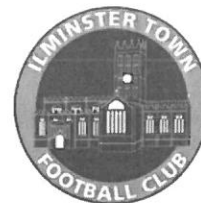
The Ilminster Youth FC secretary had recently spoken at the town council meeting a couple of weeks prior to our meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> September. He explained that as a club we have grown to support over 400 children, we were developing a disability provision and, after the success of the lionesses in the summer, we were also expecting to register additional girls' teams. We spoke at the Open spaces meeting seeking help to secure licenses for our current pitches, enabling us to unlock much needed funding to maintain the pitches we use for roughly 8 months of the year. Pitch maintenance is a high priority for us as a club, the current standard of pitches are well below the standard that we should be providing for the youth of Ilminster. We are also asking for support to provide and license further pitches to enable us to keep up with the demands of youth football in Ilminster and surrounding villages. We left that town council meeting feeling that we had finally been recognised for our relentless hard work and we were optimistic that much needed support would soon follow.

As volunteers we spent considerable time preparing for your meeting and supplying the information you requested on the assumption that this would be the start of productive conversations around how the town council and Ilminster Youth FC would work together to support an ever growing demand for youth football provisions. Instead, it was made abundantly clear that our previous request for support had fallen upon deaf ears and I left feeling extremely disheartened. After feeding this back to our committee all the volunteers of Ilminster Youth FC felt the same and were bemused by the nature of the meeting and the conditions proposed.

Discussions at the start of the meeting around how the town council could purchase the old office building and give it back to the community for their use and then discussions around the site of this year's bonfire seemed completely irrelevant. We were then ambushed with a list of conditions that we have been told are going to be imposed from next year. With the meeting having been scheduled weeks in advance it would have made sense for the conditions to have been circulated prior to the meeting. What happened instead was an electronic copy was not sent out until the 14<sup>th</sup> September with a note that all responses had to be returned by the 26<sup>th</sup> September. This only allowed us 12 days to call an emergency committee meeting to discuss and reply to these conditions, at a time when we are all busy with the start of our football season as volunteers.



# FA CHARTER STANDARD COMMUNITY CLUB ILMINSTER TOWN YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB



[www.ityfc.co.uk](http://www.ityfc.co.uk)

**Chairman:** Craig Brister  
**Vice Chairman:** Jonny Watkins  
**Secretary:** Chris Snook  
**Treasurer:** Becky Bristow

In the same meeting the town Clerk said he would invite us to reach out to our users later in the year for input into what they want from the open spaces of the town. Of our 400+ members 75% of the families live in Ilminster and a further 10% live within an 8 mile radius of the town. The children want to be able to play football, they want to be able to see their friends in a controlled, constructive and safe environment. Their parents want them to get outside and exercise. Parents want to be able watch their children develop whilst enjoying the socialising aspect of the training and matches for themselves. We offer all of these things to hundreds of Ilminster families and some of these conditions are a direct threat to the services we can provide. When I asked why these conditions needed to be applied, no real reason was given. On this basis we would like to request that when this item is discussed at the Open Spaces meeting councillors look to set up a working group of informed councillors and key members of open space users where we can discuss the root issues driving these conditions. Where any root issues are identified, we can collaborate to come up with suitable resolutions. We also invite the town council to help us formalise and solidify the arrangements we currently have, preferably by the way of a licence so we can approach bodies for future funding. We continue to welcome some support from Open Spaces, the Town council and other groups around the town to assist in the provisions we are working tirelessly to provide, on their behalf.

Along with this letter, I have attached a report with our responses to each of the conditions, in collaboration with Ilminster (seniors) Football Club. We formally request that this letter and accompanying report be included alongside the report that you are issuing to open spaces, thus allowing the points raised in this document to be discussed at the Open spaces committee, prior to the report reaching full council. The Youth Football Club will be represented at the Open spaces committee, and we will be speaking ahead of the discussions.

Kind Regards,

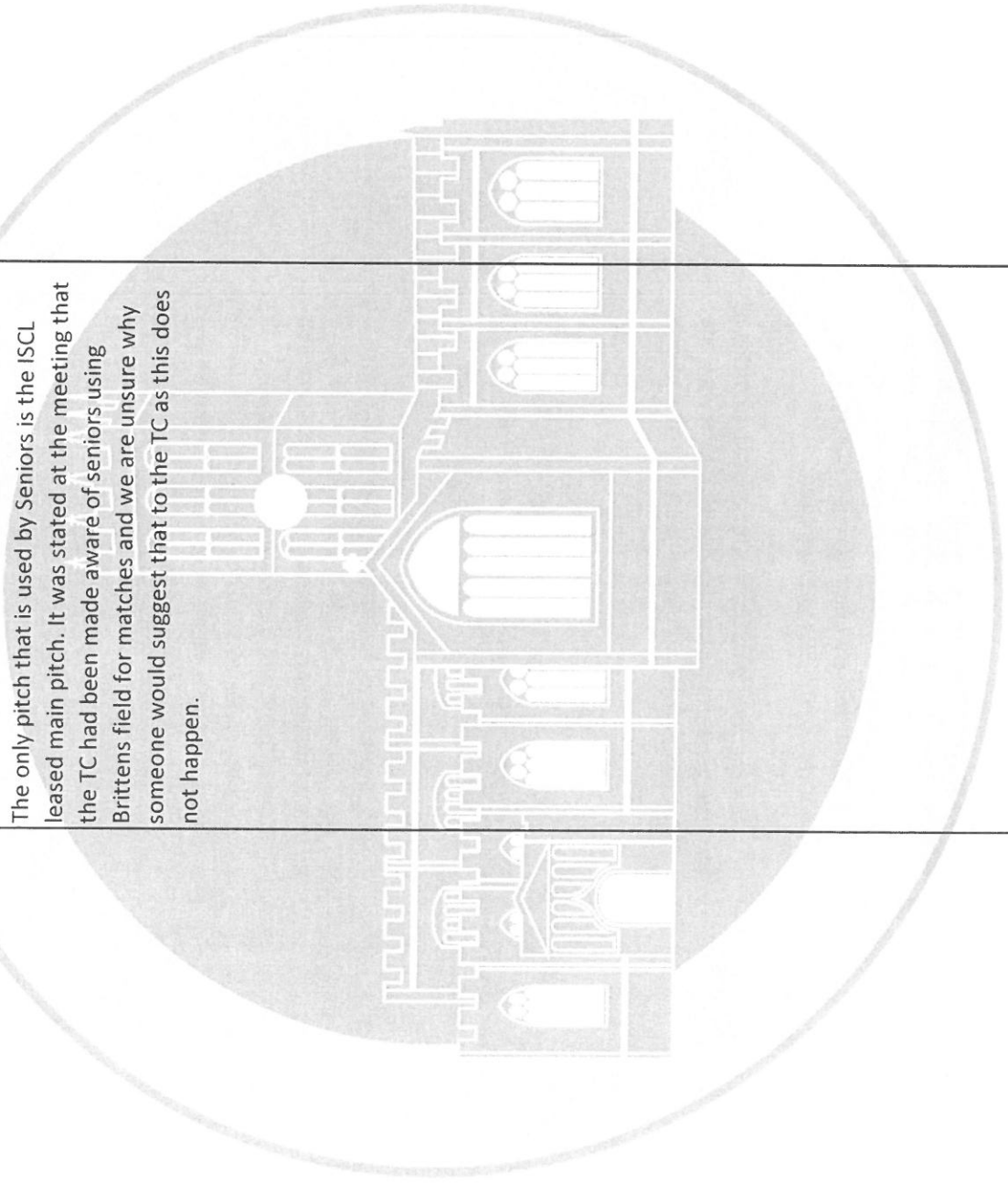
**Jonny Watkins**  
Vice Chairman  
[jonny@ilminsteryouthfc.co.uk](mailto:jonny@ilminsteryouthfc.co.uk)  
07527562892

Ref	Proposed Condition	Ilminster Town (Senior) FC Response	Ilminster Town (Youth) FC Response
1	<p>All pitches are not for the exclusive use of the football and cricket clubs unless they have a prior booking agreed with the Town Council. The grounds are public spaces for the use of everyone and must be booked accordingly.</p>	<p>As previously explained, we do not receive fixture lists for all of our teams, and therefore a booking system is not likely to be practical. As a club our preferred option would be to discuss a licence which includes clear dates for usage. This would surely negate the need for a booking system which would undoubtedly increase the admin burden on an already very busy Town Council.</p> <p>We have some queries on the types of groups that would be allowed to book the use of the pitch, the Football Club invest significant funds to the maintenance of the pitch, and we would have grave concerns if activities took place that could compromise the work carried out by the football club. A good example of this was last year when a cricket wicket was rolled in the middle of the rec pitch which negated all the hard work our volunteer groundsmen had done through the non playing season and cost us as a club to repair, as that area had been compacted by a roller.</p> <p>Have the TC had any request for pitch usage to date?</p> <p>If the TC felt that a booking system is the way forward would the booking system be visible (online) to allow us to plan any additional slots, or to plan for any changes, this would also allow us to see who else is using the pitch that we pay rent and maintenance on. You state the public space is for everyone so we assume anyone using the public space formally will be charged the same rates as us?</p>	<p>In preparation for the meeting on Tuesday 6th September we sent the estimated times that games would take place i.e. Under 7s would play Saturday AM on the 5v5 pitch. We are unable to be more precise than this without a massive overhead on both our part and/or the part of the TC.</p> <p>When we asked the direct question as to why this was being proposed there was no real explanation offered.</p> <p>We are currently in the process of requesting licenses or site usage agreements for each of our pitches, where one does not already exist. This would open up grant opportunities from the Football Foundation which would in turn allow us to invest even more into maintenance of the pitches.</p> <p>Certain reassurances into the types of groups who would be using the pitches would need to be made and we would ask that the same conditions outlined, are applied to all.</p>

Ref	Proposed Condition	Ilminster Town (Senior) FC Response	Ilminster Town (Youth) FC Response
1	<p>All pitches are not for the exclusive use of the football and cricket clubs unless they have a prior booking agreed with the Town Council. The grounds are public spaces for the use of everyone and must be booked accordingly.</p> <p>(Continued)</p>	<p>Would these funds, or a percentage of these, be discounted from the rent paid by the club to help assist the maintenance costs we incur to return ground to playable state. An example of this is the ground being compacted due to heavy foot traffic. We then have to hire in a contractor to verti drain to decompact the ground to aid drainage and ensure the pitch is playable during wet weather. If we don't do this we have to cancel games and these games are then added on to the end of the normal playing season.</p> <p>A few years ago, there was a rec users group meeting, and anyone who used the recreation ground was invited, from the comments provided it would appear that restarting these meetings would be beneficial, particularly if new groups are looking to book space on a long-term basis. This meeting could be used to help everyone understand all users needs for the vast open spaces we are lucky to have in Ilminster.</p>	



Ref	Proposed Condition	Ilminster Town (Senior) FC Response	Ilminster Town (Youth) FC Response
2	<p>There will be no senior football matches held on Britten's Field. If there are, they will incur a charge.</p>	<p>Agreed, the pitches (excluding Archie Gooch Pavilion pitch) are too small to meet the regulations and therefore it is impossible for the senior teams to use these.</p> <p>The only pitch that is used by Seniors is the ISCL leased main pitch. It was stated at the meeting that the TC had been made aware of seniors using Britten's field for matches and we are unsure why someone would suggest that to the TC as this does not happen.</p>	<p>Due to the pitch sizes, the only matches played in Britten's Field are youth matches, therefore this comment is N/A.</p>

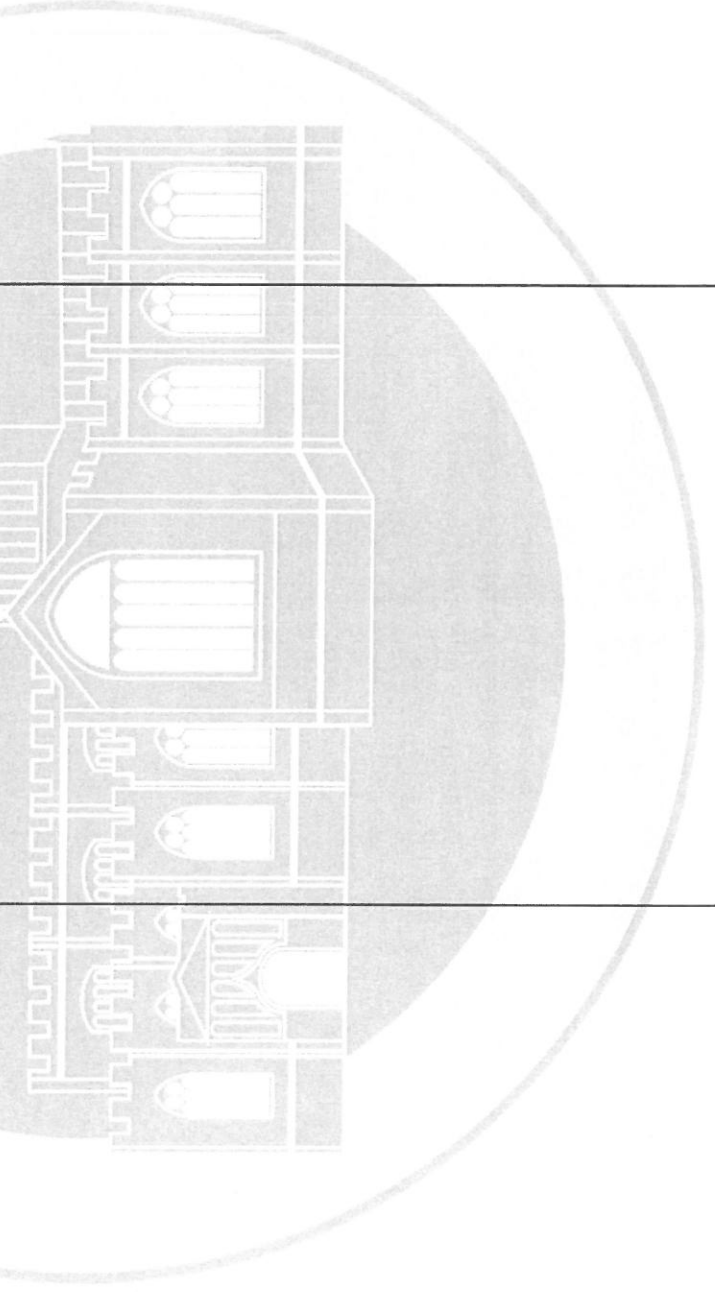


Ref	Proposed Condition	Ilminster Town (Senior) FC Response	Ilminster Town (Youth) FC Response
3	Pitch fees will also cover ITC grounds team and maintenance costs: grass cutting, litter picking, annual weed killer. (not special weedkiller).	<p>It has always been the football clubs understanding that these items were included in the fees, as obviously these works are required across the entirety of the recreation ground.</p> <p>We specifically do not ask for any extra cutting of the grass during the season other than what the council carries out during their normal working week.</p> <p>In discussions we have previously had over the rental fee, it was explained that this is based on the square metreage of the pitch, therefore we assume that if additional funds are raised for this area (though booking fees for other groups) that a deduction may be negotiable in the fees charged to the club, or an opportunity may arise for the TC to contribute to the cost of the maintenance carried out by the club, additional users will increase wear on the pitch and therefore the clubs pitch maintenance costs will increase on an annual basis. This may be in the form of a contribution to seed or top-dressing for example.</p>	<p>We believe this is already the case and we would support the continuation of these agreements.</p>

Ref	Proposed Condition	Ilminster Town (Senior) FC Response	Ilminster Town (Youth) FC Response
4	<p>Goal posts to be moved and stored in the Archie Gooch Pavilion within two weeks of the end of their season.</p> <p>Possibility of charging for our grounds team to move them if this is not done?</p>	<p>We would welcome further explanation on the reasoning behind this request, as this poses us some difficulties. The main difficulty being that the only area that we as a football club rent, is the Grandstand Pitch, and our latest invoice states that we rent this for the period from 1st April to 31st March.</p> <p>The recommendation given is that we use the Archie Gooch Pavilion, however this is leased by ISCL, and therefore the FC do not have any land here on which the goals can be stored, therefore this is not viable without us renting further space from ISCL for the period the goals are stored and we believe there isn't any spare ground available due to ISCL improving their outside area by adding a play area for the benefit of the community. We don't have spare space in our compound as we have had to purchase our own grounds maintenance equipment including a tractor as in previous discussion with the TC and ISCL the TC ceased cutting the main football pitch.</p> <p>The goals need to be available for the duration of the football season, and for pre-season training, I have referred to the Perry Street &amp; District Football League handbook and item 20 (A) within this states that the season shall be finished by the second Saturday in May, however there is an allowance for an additional week should sufficient fixtures not have been fulfilled by March or April, this is quite possible given the wet winters we often experience, and obviously potential delays due to pandemics etc.</p>	<p>We do not have permission to store anything in the Archie Gooch. In the additional information given within the deputy clerks email, she makes reference to a previous scenario where Matt and other volunteers moved the goals back to the Archie Gooch. These would have been the old style goals where they were basically 3 metal poles sunk into the ground. They could be stored quite easily because they were essentially flat. The goals nowadays are a 3 dimensional structure to comply with health and safety regulations, amongst others. They cannot be dismantled. If they were moved back towards Brittens field they would still need to occupy some space on the rec.</p> <p>At the time or writing this, we have 2 sets of goals chained up inside each other left over by the Archie Gooch, one set of goals near the 9v9 pitch at the end of the seniors main pitch and 3 sets of goals chained up inside each other stored near the cricket pavilion next to 2 sets of cricket nets and 3 sight screens.</p> <p>We are in the process of requesting some hard standing storage to store equipment on the rec, or even permission to fence off a small area similar to the 2 areas the cricket club have fenced off (one in each field).</p> <p>We understand the reasoning behind this condition is that the TC groundsmen currently are unable to move the goals to cut the areas they occupy. If neither of the suggestions above are an acceptable solutions, we could look to move the goals on a regular basis in line with their cutting schedule.</p>

Ref	Proposed Condition	Ilminster Town (Senior) FC Response	Ilminster Town (Youth) FC Response
4	<p>Goal posts to be moved and stored in the Archie Gooch Pavilion within two weeks of the end of their season.</p> <p>Possibility of charging for our grounds team to move them if this is not done?</p> <p>(Continued)</p>	<p>Our pitch maintenance would also have an impact on this dates of the season, as if we have permission to carry out pitch maintenance and are able to secure funding for areas we hold a licence on or have a Site Owner and Site User Grass Pitch Maintenance Agreement in place, then we can carry out maintenance to ensure as few games as possible are called off due thus ensuring games do not run past the proposed end of season date.</p> <p>We have run the dates for this season and the second Saturday in May is the 13th, however allowing for the additional week, this would be the 20th May.</p> <p>Allowing the two weeks grace period would mean the goals being moved by (worst case) Saturday 3rd June. As previously stated, pre-season training starts on the first Tuesday or Thursday of July, in this instance Tuesday 4th July. Given the complexity and manpower required to move the goals, and given that we are a club of volunteers, we would need to move the goals on the weekend prior to this.</p> <p>Based on this we would be moving the goals for less than a month, and we are unsure what the purpose of this would be, especially given the manpower required to carry this out, and the issues with where we would store these once moved.</p> <p>If the reasoning for requesting the goals are moved, is maintenance then the club could look into alternative measures that ensure that adequate maintenance occurs to the storage area.</p>	

Ref	Proposed Condition	Ilminster Town (Senior) FC Response	Ilminster Town (Youth) FC Response
4	<p>Goal posts to be moved and stored in the Archie Gooch Pavilion within two weeks of the end of their season.</p> <p>Possibility of charging for our grounds team to move them if this is not done?</p> <p>(Continued)</p>	<p>Some possible solutions could be that the FC provide keys to the groundsman to allow the moving of the goals to be simplified, the goals could be moved between cuts to ensure that the patch they are stored on is rotated and therefore does not miss out on multiple cuts. Storage under the trees may also assist as the grass there is less likely to grow as fast.</p> <p>We note that the document does not make any reference to portable cricket nets or site screens. Do the TC grounds team currently move these? Do the CC currently pay for this to happen? We do not have any issue with these remaining in place, but in the absence of an explanation of why the goals need to be moved, we are wondering what the difference is?</p>	



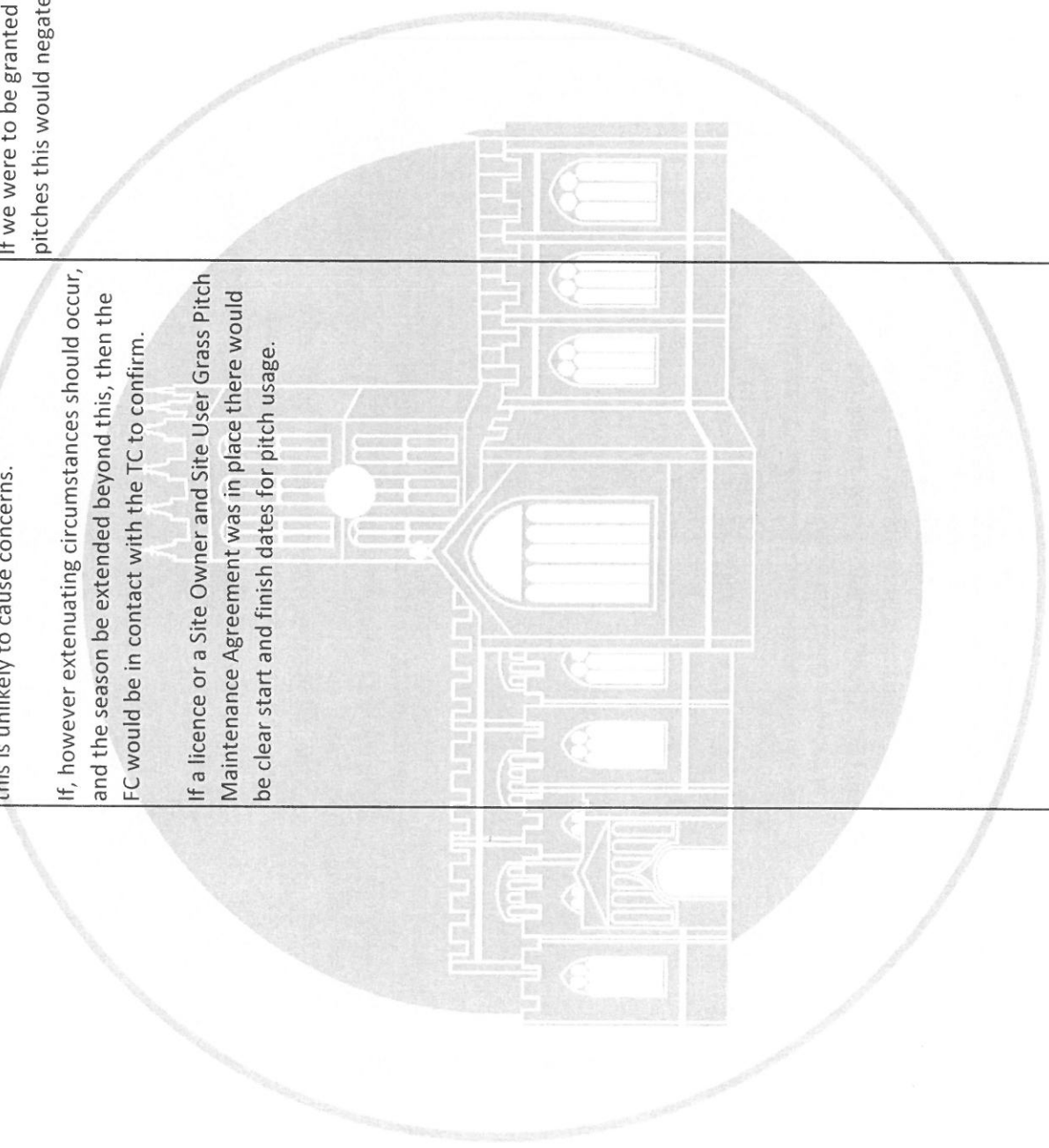
Ref	Proposed Condition	Iliminster Town (Senior) FC Response	Iliminster Town (Youth) FC Response
5	<p>A club nominated volunteer to inspect and remove all debris from grounds i.e., Sock tape, litter before and after matches.</p>	<p>We agree that, as a club, we need to ensure we remove any litter generated by the match or training session from the grounds, this has been reiterated to players and managers previously and we will ensure this is repeated regularly.</p> <p>We ask players to check the pitch for litter whilst warming up, particularly items that could cause injury, we would expect that this problem would be minimal as we are paying for the TC to litter pick. Whilst we do carry out these checks, the responsibility for litter (not associated with the match) remain with the TC.</p> <p>There is, and always has been, a major issue with dogs fouling on the pitch, and owners not clearing this up. We regularly have to remove dog fouling from all pitches and have highlighted this as an issue for a number of years. We have reported it via the SSDC website. We are more than happy to call the TC to complain every time we collect dog fouling and take photographic evidence if this is required?</p> <p>As stated, in item 1, the pitches are for the use of everyone, therefore we would expect that all users should be held to the standards expected of the FC, and these include the dog walkers that use the recreation ground. Can you please provide details of the measures currently in place to deal with the fouling issue, and also is it possible that any extra income generated by other groups be used to help combat this issue?</p>	<p>We would hope that very little debris should be present before the game as we pay for litter picking, but we already do a pre match check for litter and dogs mess.</p> <p>At each session our manager is responsible for clearing up afterwards, an agreement which is already in place. There appears to be a lack of bins across the rec and Brittens field as a whole. Perhaps additional bins would encourage people to dispose of their rubbish appropriately.</p>

Ref	Proposed Condition	Ilminster Town (Senior) FC Response	Ilminster Town (Youth) FC Response
6	<p>A club nominated volunteer to oversee matches to ensure people use the public toilets and not areas around the grounds.</p> <p>FA Handbook 2022 p.642 Respect. Possibility of £100 each reported incident?</p>	<p>The FC have no dispute with this statement, it is the responsibility of the manager to communicate to the players, and the opposition that there are toilets available at the Pavilion and on the recreation ground, this has been raised following recent complaints to ensure this is occurring.</p> <p>Of the occasions that have been reported to us, the colour of the kits described have been the away team, the FC would be willing to assist in proceedings should a report of an away player be filed to the FA, as stated this is in the FA rules and therefore clubs should be aware of this when travelling to away games.</p> <p>Our Chairman sits on the Perry Street &amp; District Football league committee and he would be happy to raise this as an issue in the next meeting, from this communication would be circulated to all clubs to make them aware of the FA stance on this.</p> <p>Has any research been carried out into ECB fines that can be applied for these offences? Given the duration of the matches, and the distance from the Britten's Field pitch to the pavilion, there is surely potential that this could also be a Cricket issue.</p>	<p>We are unaware of a report to have even been made against the youth football teams. It is the manager's responsibility to open the Archie Gooch changing rooms and toilets for the children at all home games. Any report to us can be followed up if sufficient detail is given. However, what you are describing is a criminal offence. I would suggest that if sufficient evidence was available, a report to the police should be made.</p> <p>We will also be instructing our managers to report all cases of dog fouling to ITC, where possible we will attach an image of the dog and owners in question. I believe this is also a criminal offence which carries a fine of up to £1000. We would ask that you enforce this.</p>

Ref	Proposed Condition	Ilminster Town (Senior) FC Response	Ilminster Town (Youth) FC Response
7	<p>Use of pitches to be agreed prior to the season i.e., Fixture lists. Notification of unplanned matches must be made no later than 7 days prior to the match/training session. If an immediate change is required, an email notification to Town Council must be made at that time.</p>	<p>As stated previously, we do not receive fixture lists and fixtures change weekly on occasions due to cup fixtures, cancelled games and unavailability of teams or pitches.</p> <p>Our preferred option would be to continue to rent the pitch for a period of the year, as we have done for the last however many years with no issue (ideally this would be a licence or a Site Owner and Site User Grass Pitch Maintenance Agreement).</p> <p>The Grandstand pitch is shared between ourselves and the youth FC, this is therefore used continuously throughout the season for matches and training (when light allows).</p> <p>As an additional point of reference, the leagues reserve the right to allocate fixtures as late as the Tuesday prior to the Saturday fixture.</p>	<p>As stated in response 1, we are volunteers and do not have the resources to manage this. We also wouldn't want to add the administrative burden onto the already busy town council.</p> <p>What is the current problem that would require this to be implemented?</p> <p>We should also note that in many cases it's also not possible to give 7 days notice when we are appointed late fixtures, specifically in the cups.</p> <p>With the 400 children we currently support this would be a lot of admin all around.</p>



Ref	Proposed Condition	Ilminster Town (Senior) FC Response	Ilminster Town (Youth) FC Response
8	Clubs to ask Town Council for use of the pitches if any matches run over the end of their season.	<p>As per response 4, the season has the potential to run until the third weekend in May and therefore this is unlikely to cause concerns.</p> <p>If, however extenuating circumstances should occur, and the season be extended beyond this, then the FC would be in contact with the TC to confirm.</p> <p>If a licence or a Site Owner and Site User Grass Pitch Maintenance Agreement was in place there would be clear start and finish dates for pitch usage.</p>	<p>We can inform the TC should the season overrun.</p> <p>If we were to be granted licenses for each of our pitches this would negate any requirement for this.</p>



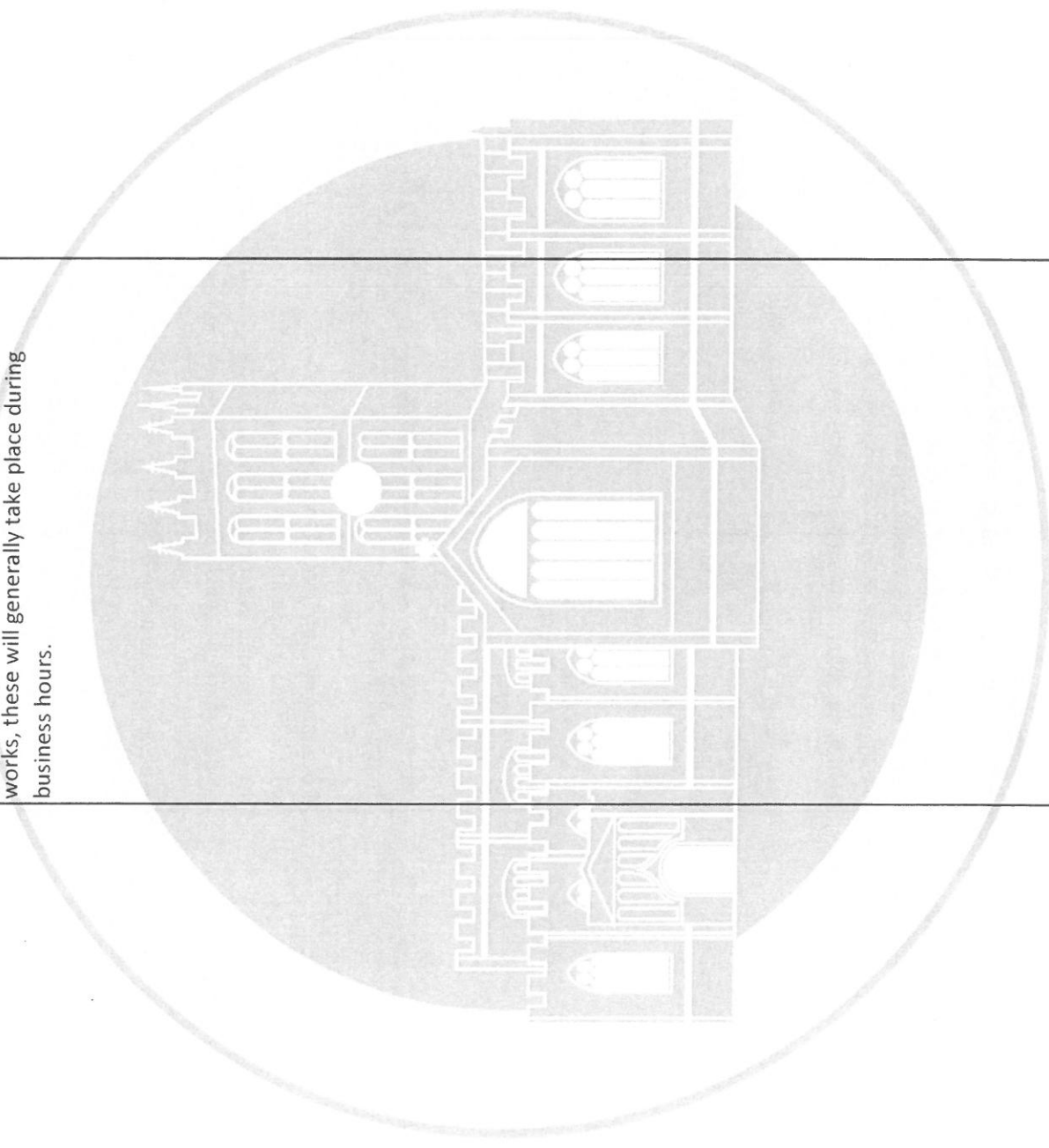
Ref	Proposed Condition	Ilminster Town (Senior) FC Response	Ilminster Town (Youth) FC Response
9	<p>Clubs to ask Town Council for use of the pitches for any period during the week and weekends that haven't already been notified, also if fixtures or training dates are changed.</p>	<p>As per the previous comments, if a licence or a Site Owner and Site User Grass Pitch Maintenance Agreement was in place there would be clear start and finish dates for pitch usage. Having the suggested agreement above in place would negate a need for an admin burden of a booking system.</p> <p>If the TC felt a booking system is the way forward, block booking should negate a lot of movement in the times the club would need to use the pitch, however, should events occur that do change this then the club would make contact with the TC to confirm.</p> <p>In this instance, how would we be able to contact TC out of hours to make last minute changes if required? As a Committee of volunteers, we need to make most of our FC related arrangements during the evenings when not at work.</p> <p>Again, if a booking system is required preference would be for an online system to allow the new bookings to be made but again we understand this is more admin work for the TC to allow for.</p>	<p>Please see responses 1 and 7</p>

Ref	Proposed Condition	Ilminster Town (Senior) FC Response	Ilminster Town (Youth) FC Response
10	From time to time, TC may allow others to book space for events or groups i.e., Fitness, childcare groups, Party on the Park etc.	<p>The events listed have always occurred on the pitch or on other parts of the vast open spaces with the clubs full blessing, and just a request that any litter be cleared ahead of the next use, particularly sharp object such as bottle lids.</p> <p>We assume that these events would not be allowed to occur on slots booked by the FC without prior consultation with the club. The club have limited ability to request that the league do not give us home fixtures on a set date, however this requires 28 days' notice, and we are limited to how many of these requests we can make per season.</p> <p>We assume that the conditions of pitch usage would apply to any other groups using the pitch, i.e., litter picking etc.</p> <p>We would also ask that we are allowed to rope off our goal mouths during events, as we currently do to ensure minimal damage is done, we undertake maintenance of goal mouths as a minimum due to the wear over the season.</p>	<p>On the basis they are following the same rules as us, we would be happy to support this. We are already involved in many of the large events held across the town and those involvements form a large part of our fundraising.</p>

Ref	Proposed Condition	Ilminster Town (Senior) FC Response	Ilminster Town (Youth) FC Response
11	<p>After the playing season finishes, a period of time should be allowed for minimal use for maintenance to take place and for the playing surfaces to recover back to their original condition. May and June being the preferred months. Therefore, any matches outside of the agreed season will require a written request for approval from the Town Council.</p>	<p>We have explained the proposed Perry Street &amp; District Football League playing season, and we would therefore ensure our booking covered these dates.</p> <p>Where possible the FC would also be keen to allow maintenance to commence earlier than planned and therefore fixtures shall be monitored and works booked to suit, however this would need to be gauged on a seasonal basis.</p> <p>We assume that during this period other groups would also be prevented from booking the pitch.</p> <p>We currently carry out post season maintenance as per our maintenance programme. We carry out renovation works to goal mouths, over seed and top dress the pitch if maintenance funds allow. This is exactly the reason we apply for grants from the football foundation to assist playing surfaces to recover and become more hard standing of a football season. Our suggestion previously of a licence or a Site Owner and Site User Grass Pitch Maintenance Agreement is key as this allows us to apply for pitch maintenance grants to do exactly what item 11 states.</p> <p>Is the intention that the TC would carry out any maintenance or is it anticipated that ITFC would continue to fund and carry these works out? Would any funds be available from other groups booking fees to assist in covering these costs?</p>	<p>When we are granted a license for each pitch we will unlock thousands of pounds in pitch maintenance grants to enhance those areas far better than they already are. In line with the cricket club cordoning off the squares, are we allowed to cordon off the goal mouths to help those areas recover?</p>

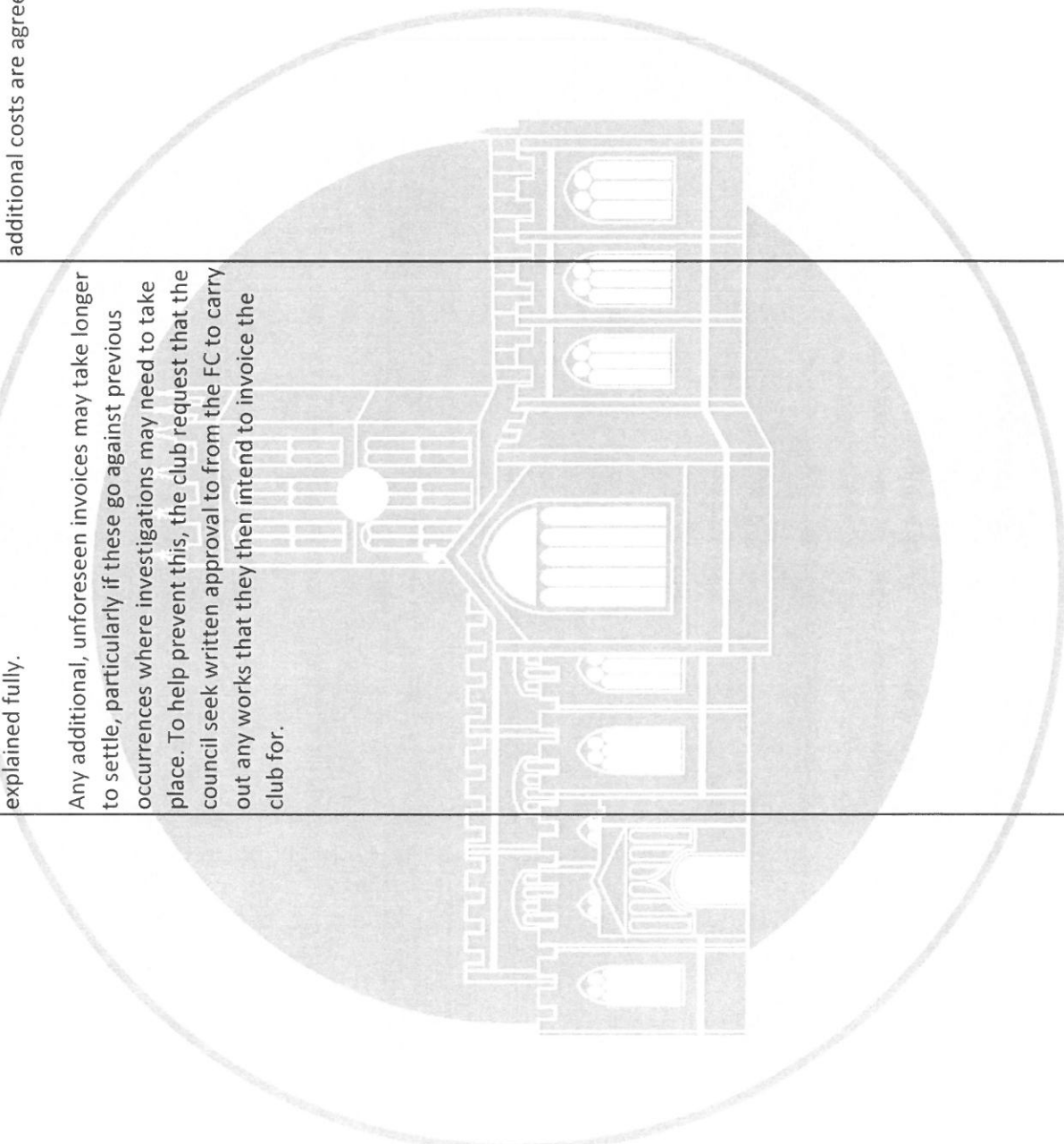
Ref	Proposed Condition	Iminster Town (Senior) FC Response	Iminster Town (Youth) FC Response
12	<p>Where pitches overlap, priority is given to the club whose season it is, and prior agreement with the Town Council has to be obtained. Overlapping pitches should be avoided where possible.</p>	<p>The location of the only pitch rented by the FC, the grandstand pitch, means that no overlapping takes place in this area. We assume the above comment would prevent a group, such as a rounders group from being able to mark a pitch in this area?</p> <p>In terms of overlapping pitches as a whole, we feel that there is little alternative to this, given the space available, and the high number of participants in sporting activity, the overlapping is unavoidable. Where we have had a cross over with pitches before it has never been an issue for the FC. The only issue we see with a cross over of playing pitches is the type of maintenance that is carried out by both clubs. Maybe we could use the official document (Successful management of dual use cricket and football sites) that has been produced by the English cricket board, the FA and the Institute of Groundsmanship?</p> <p>If overlapping is prevented then pitch numbers would be reduced limiting the number of people that can take part in sporting activity, this by-product must go against the TC wishes for the local community? Removal of overlapping pitches would also lead to over usage of the pitches, and this will lead to additional maintenance costs.</p> <p>Whilst avoiding as much as possible makes sense, there will always need to be occurrences. The youth and cricket club would be better placed to discuss dates, and hopefully between them a compromise could be made that doesn't limit the amount of sport offered to the community.</p>	<p>If priority refers to bookings, then yes. But dates need to be confirmed.</p> <p>This year the cricket season overran and we coordinated between ourselves to allow them to play outside of their season.</p> <p>Overlapping pitches are inevitable but should not be an issue as long as the shared FA and ECB guidance to groundsmen is followed. The aim should be to allow all teams to deliver services to children and Iminster residents. If overlaps occur they just need to be managed accordingly between all users.</p>

Ref	Proposed Condition	Ilminster Town (Senior) FC Response	Ilminster Town (Youth) FC Response
13	Club must inform Town Council prior to any works being carried out by third party on the grounds	The FC will notify the Town Council of planned works, we will give as much notice as possible of the works, these will generally take place during business hours.	Agreed, with as much notice as possible.



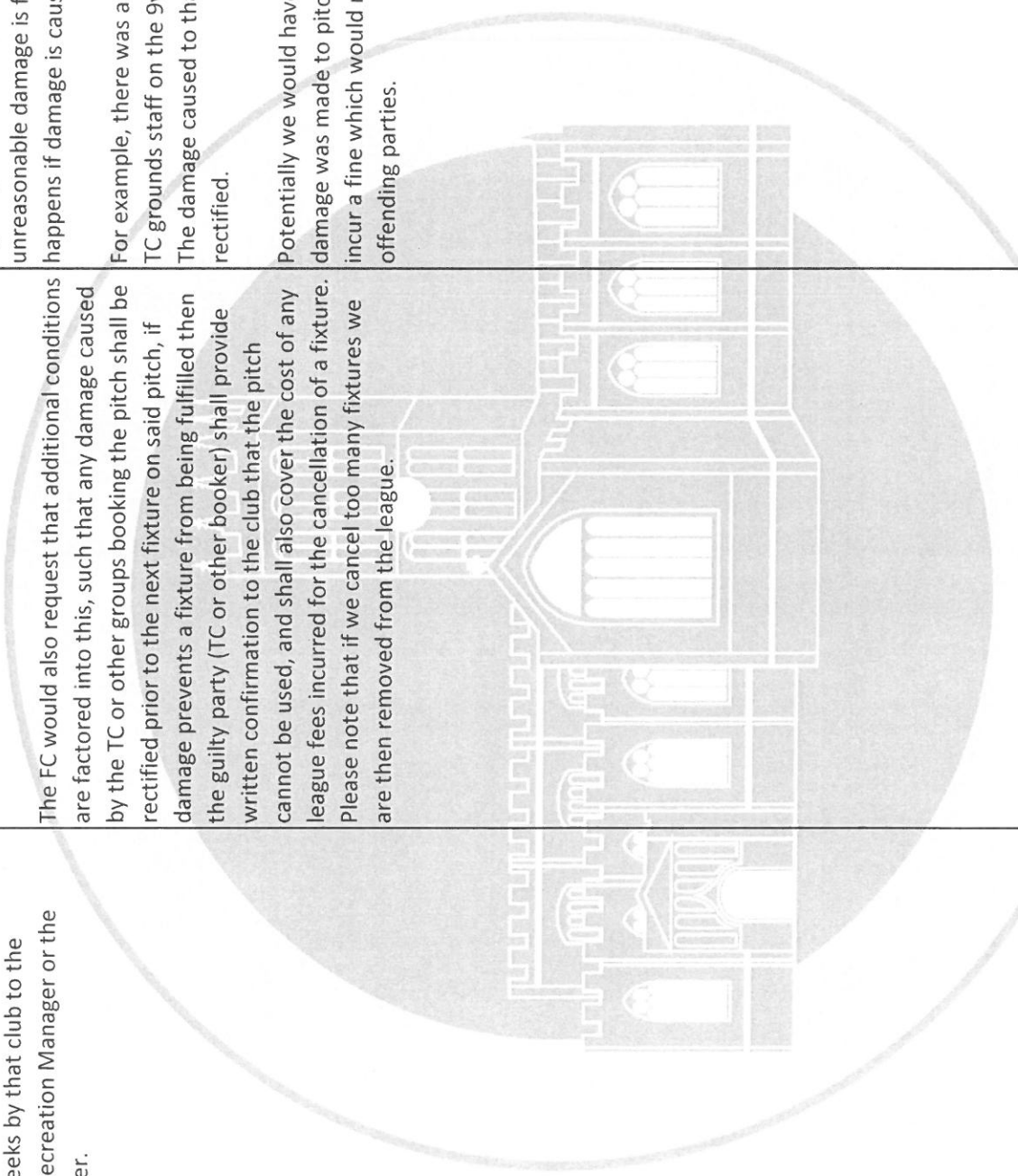
Ref	Proposed Condition	Ilminster Town (Senior) FC Response	Ilminster Town (Youth) FC Response
14	Pitch Fees will be set for 2023/2024 and will increase annually by the rate of inflation over the next 3 years.	<p>An agreement on the pitch fees increasing along with inflation seems sensible, we would welcome a cap on the maximum possible annual increase though to ensure that the club can make budgets, given that all finances are raised through sponsorship and fundraising.</p> <p>From the meeting, we note that there is a proposal to put the pitch fees up from £330, for the period up to 31st March 2022, to £393.40, an increase of 20%, this increase is therefore not in line with inflation, and we request this please be reviewed. If as stated before we had a licence in place we could possibly add a base rent calculated by a formula using sqm giving a clear fee for the tenure duration allowing clubs to budget appropriately.</p> <p>As intimated in other sections, the TCs proposed conditions would potentially limit the FC usage of the pitch, whilst also allowing other groups to rent this pitch, we would hope that these facts would be considered when setting the fees for the coming year, and for future seasons, with an agreement that the fee would be further reviewed should further groups sign up to use the area.</p>	<p>How is our rent currently calculated? Is it by square meterage or usage?</p> <p>With the current financial crisis affecting the country, could we ask that increase in line with inflation be capped? Inflation could be as high as 15% and any increase in charges would be reflected in the fees we charge our users.</p> <p>Do any other users of open spaces have a similar agreement we could follow?</p>

Ref	Proposed Condition	Ilminster Town (Senior) FC Response	Ilminster Town (Youth) FC Response
15	Clubs are to settle accounts be 31st December each year or within 30 days of the invoice date, whichever comes first.	<p>The FC would be happy to settle the pitch fees within 30 days, providing the rate of any increase is explained fully.</p> <p>Any additional, unforeseen invoices may take longer to settle, particularly if these go against previous occurrences where investigations may need to take place. To help prevent this, the club request that the council seek written approval to from the FC to carry out any works that they then intend to invoice the club for.</p>	<p>We would be happy to continue settling our accounts on time. With the exception that any additional costs are agreed before hand.</p>





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16	<p>Any damage to the pitches caused by a club must be rectified within 2 weeks by that club to the satisfaction of the Recreation Manager or the Countryside Manager.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>The FC would also request that additional conditions are factored into this, such that any damage caused by the TC or other groups booking the pitch shall be rectified prior to the next fixture on said pitch, if damage prevents a fixture from being fulfilled then the guilty party (TC or other booker) shall provide written confirmation to the club that the pitch cannot be used, and shall also cover the cost of any league fees incurred for the cancellation of a fixture. Please note that if we cancel too many fixtures we are then removed from the league.</p>	<p>Agreed, can we define what reasonable and unreasonable damage is first though? Also, what happens if damage is caused by other parties?</p> <p>For example, there was a large diesel spillage by the TC grounds staff on the 9v9 pitch in Brittens field. The damage caused to that pitch was never rectified.</p> <p>Potentially we would have to cancel games if severe damage was made to pitches. In cases these would incur a fine which would need to be passed on to the offending parties.</p>



Ref	Proposed Condition	Ilminster Town (Senior) FC Response	Ilminster Town (Youth) FC Response
17	<p>Each club to provide the Town Council with a copy of their current public liability insurance certificate with a minimum cover of £5 million.</p>	<p>The FC carry public liability insurance to cover £10 million, certificate shall be included alongside this report.</p>	<p>Our current public liability insurance is 10m. We assume all parties mentioned above (childminding groups, exercise classes, etc) would need to do the same.</p>

