

## **Proposal to resurface the Tennis Court / MUGA Area**

### **Proposal for Agenda of the Parish Council Meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

Proposed that recommendations made by Cllr Douglass in his report to the Council, dated 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024, be accepted, specifically:

- 1) That the Clerk be instructed to obtain quotes for resurfacing the court, using the tender specifications in Annex A of the above report.
- 2) That the Council allocate a maximum of £6,000 from its reserves, towards the cost of this project, plus any recoverable VAT.
- 3) That funding applications be submitted for the balance of the funds required.

### **Background**

The tennis court was built in its current location, by the Parish Council, in 1973. It was funded from the proceeds of land, on Longstone Moor, that the Council had recently sold.

The current surface of the tennis court was laid in around 2006 with an expected design life of 15 to 20 years. This work was funded at the time by the Tennis Club, who also undertook the routine annual maintenance that the court required.

Around 10 years ago the Parish Council replaced the fencing and kerbing. They are generally in good condition, meet current standards and would be adequate to retain a new surface.

In recent years the membership of the tennis club dwindled, and it closed in 2022. Annual maintenance has slipped and for several years consisted mainly of the annual removal of moss, by a Parish Council contractor.

The surface is now breaking up and around 20 bags of gravel were removed from the surface during a recent clean. I have been given expert opinion that the tarmac has lost its bond with the aggregate, and during recent pickleball games there have been slips and falls associated with the surface deterioration.

The surface is now in need of replacement, if it is to continue to be available for safe use by parishioners.

### **Options**

With the help of LASRA, our new Sports and Recreation Association, I have been investigating options for resurfacing.

It appears that we have two main options.

- 1) Basic replacement of the tarmac surface with an acrylic painted porous macadam. This involves an over surfacing of the existing layer with appropriate 25mm of compressed porous macadam and equates to approximately 32 tonnes of macadam. Additionally, a coloured acrylic paint with grip resistance would be applied to the new macadam.

- 2) As above but with additional overlays of cushioned surfaces, both porous polymeric and sand dressed needlecord.

I have found that there is an industry code of practice produced by the Sports and Play Construction Association (SAPCA) that can be used for quotation purposes.

It is my understanding that if the Parish Council wishes to go forward with Option (1) the cost will be in the range of £17k to £20k (excluding VAT). The total cost of Option (2) (i.e. the tarmacing in Option (1) plus the addition of cushioned surfaces, will be in the range of £37k and £47k.

### **Funding the Project**

I am confident that we can cover the majority, if not all, of the costs involved in this project from funding applications to appropriate organisations.

However, it would help if the Parish Council could allocate up to £6,000 from its reserves (plus any recoverable VAT Costs) towards this project. The project will not go ahead until the balance of the necessary costs have been confirmed.

### **Potential Future Maintenance and Costs**

Typically, the life of a Macadam court is 15 – 20 years, but this is use-dependant. The acrylic paint covering would need renewing every 5 to 7 years.

The costs for maintenance and annual cleaning contract would be circa £750 per year, however, I understand that LASRA might be able to undertake this work, on behalf of the Parish Council, if suitable equipment is obtained.

### **Recommendations**

After reviewing the options and potential costings, and discussing this with users of the court, my recommendations to the Parish Council are:

To approve Option (1) above, which is to install a Type 2 – High grip open textured porous macadam surface with single colour acrylic paint covering designed for ball rebound sports where netball is the priority and sports such as tennis, mini-tennis, and basketball are secondary users. This will include contrasting lines for tennis, pickleball (x2), netball and basketball.

Given a timely order placement refurbishment could occur in Spring 2025. A typical programme would involve one week of installation, three weeks of curing before the application of the acrylic layer with a one-week cure – approximately 5 weeks total task.

I have produced a detailed specification (See Annex A) which can be used for the tendering process.

Cllr Andy Douglass  
7<sup>th</sup> November 2024

## **Annex A: Proposed Invitation to Tender – Replacement MUGA Surface – Great Longstone**

Great Longstone Parish Council are issuing the following Invitation to Tender for the resurfacing of the Multi Use Games Area on the Recreation Ground in the parish of Great Longstone. All quotations to be addressed to the Parish Clerk, Great Longstone Parish Council and should be received by 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

We would expect the work to be undertaken during the Spring of 2025 but the exact dates will depend on availability of funding.

The existing tarmac surface was installed over 20 years ago and is in poor condition with some contamination from moss and weeds.

The fencing was replaced and new kerbing installed around ten to twelve years ago. It is generally in good condition and meets current standards.

All works will be to The SAPCA Code of Practice for the Construction of Outdoor Multi Use Games Areas, recognising Appendix A - Performance and construction requirements for MUGAs, where the existing gradient exists, but all other criteria are relevant.

The requirement is to install a Type 2 High grip open textured porous asphalt surface with acrylic single colour and lines for sports as below.

- Tennis
- Netball
- Pickleball – 2 courts placed lengthways either side of the court centre
- Basketball – 3 point shot circle

### **The process shall encompass the following steps**

- Deep clean and all weed removal of current surface
- Drill for drainage in current surface at approx. 450mm centres and fill holes with 6mm gravel to ensure adequate porosity of the existing surface.
- Provide new post sockets in the floor for netball x 2 and tennis posts x 2 that are compatible with existing equipment.
- Resurface in Open Textured Macadam 6mm nominal size aggregate to a minimum consolidated depth across all areas of 25mm and to a surface finish that proves a consistent and even ball bounce across all areas and seams.
- Finish with a single colour anti slip acrylic coating to comply with a SAPCA Type 2 grip resistance.
- Paint lines in contrasting colours for sports as identified above.
- Make good any damage to the access route.
- Take away any spoil.

### **In carrying out the works,**

Make the area safe - recognising the proximity of public footpath and children's play areas in the vicinity

Access to the site is available via Sunny Bank from Main Road, but this will be subject to advance notice being given to residents. There is a width restriction part way up the lane, and this is slightly over 3m. Subject to the ground conditions boards may be required to protect the grass on the recreation ground.

Water supply is available approximately 75m away from the MUGA.

**Additionally**

Provide a cost for a rolling annual maintenance package.

Make good any damage to the access route.