



24th September 2026

Dear Councillor,

I Hereby Summon You to attend an **Extraordinary Meeting** of **Ferryhill Town Council** at 6.00pm on **Wednesday, 30th September 2026**, which will be held at **Ferryhill Town Hall, Chapel Terrace, Ferryhill, Co Durham, DL17 8JL**

Elizabeth Gildersleeves
Acting Town Clerk

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Declarations of Interest**
To invite members to declare any interest they may have.
- 3. Members' Dispensation**
To consider written requests for dispensations from members who have declared interests under Disclosable or Non-Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – Section 33 of the 2011 Localism Act.
- 4. Public Participation (Subject to Public Participation Policy)**
Members of the public are permitted to make representations, ask questions and give evidence in respect of any item of business included in the agenda. Questions will not be received by the Council which are in furtherance of a person's individual circumstances or which are about a matter where there is a right of appeal to the courts, a tribunal or government minister. A question will not be received by the Council where the issue it concerns has been the subject of a decision of the Council in the last six months.
- 5. Urgent football pitch repairs at Dean Bank Park**
To consider the attached report.

REPORT:	Urgent football pitch repairs at Dean Bank Park
AUTHOR:	Neighbourhood Manager
COMMITTEE:	Extraordinary Meeting of the Council
DATE	30 September 2026

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To consider a request for urgent repairs to be made to the football pitch at Dean Bank Park.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Following complaints from football teams regarding the condition of the goalmouths on the top pitch at Dean Bank Park, it was agreed at a meeting of the council on 29th July 2026 to arrange a meeting with representatives of the teams that play on that pitch to determine the best way forward (minute number 35.26-27 refers).
- 2.2 A meeting to discuss the available options was held on 23rd September with representatives from Ferryhill Athletic FC, Ferryhill Town Youth FC, the Neighbourhood Manager and Councillor J Quinn in attendance.
- 2.3 Due to the extreme heat over the summer and lack of rainfall, despite staff watering the seed, the grass didn't root strongly enough to withstand games on it once the pitches were opened. This has now left the goal mouths on the top pitch at Dean Bank Park bare, which poses a health and safety risk to those playing on the pitch, as the grass provides a cushion in cases of falls.
- 2.4 Going forward, once we get into more wet weather, games will not be able to be played on the pitch if the surface of the goal mouths becomes muddy and a slip hazard.
- 2.5 Meetings have taken place with two turf care specialist contractors who were both in agreement that, due to the large area of the goal mouths that need work, and as the pitch receives a lot of use, re-seeding would not be a workable option.
- 2.6 The contractors recommended returfing the goal mouths with a hybrid turf, as this turf is more mature it will be able to better withstand the heavy usage of the pitch.
- 2.7 The issues the pitch is suffering with are mainly due to the excessive amount of games played on it, over twice the recommended amount for that type of pitch. Additionally, the pitch is in a public park, so it is getting regular use from residents.
- 2.8 Whilst the work is taking place, alternative pitches would need to be used by teams to ensure that the repairs are given the optimum chance to work and so we don't end up in the same situation again. Ferryhill Athletic discussed getting away fixtures for this period of time, whilst Ferryhill Town Youth are able to play on one of their other pitches.

- 2.9. Two contractors have been approached to undertake the work, however only one is able to complete the work within the timescales needed before the weather changes.
- 2.10 Agrovista have advised that they would be able to start work around the 8th/9th October,
- 2.11 Once the work has been completed, the pitch will need 6 weeks to allow the roots to establish in the underlying soil. The goalposts will be removed during this time and the gates at the entrance to the top pitch and middle pitch kept locked.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Under Schedule 8 Paragraph 4 of the Procurement Act 2023, Ferryhill Town Council's contract with Agrovista, to provide pitch maintenance at Dean Bank Park during 2026- 2027, could be extended to include additional works which could not have been foreseen when the original contract was awarded. The cost of the additional work would be £5,800. This is under the 50% increase threshold permitted under the Act.
- 3.2 There is no budget for this work, therefore it would have to be funded from the Town Council's general reserves.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 That Members approve the repair works to the pitch as an extension of Agrovista's existing pitch maintenance contract at a cost of £5,800 + VAT, to be funded from general reserves.