



# Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council Report

**Date 24/07/2025**

## **Estate Management Committee**

### **Agenda Item: 25/025 5 – Foot Tennis**

To resolve the request to extend the use of the tennis courts to allow for the inclusion of Foot Tennis.

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#### **Background**

A request has been received from a resident, Mr James Baker, on behalf of a group of local parents, to use the parish tennis courts for the sport of Foot Tennis.

Foot Tennis, as described in the correspondence, is a low-impact ball game played using a football (or similar), with the net used in the same way as in traditional tennis. The ball is not kicked with high force and is considered comparable to volleyball in intensity. The group has stated they intend to wear appropriate footwear, respect the court and its facilities, and use the court during booked slots via the existing online booking system.

The group argues that:

- **Foot Tennis is a positive, recreational use of the facility.**
- **It encourages additional community engagement.**
- **It generates income from court bookings.**
- **It is a respectful and low-risk activity with limited potential for damage.**

They are requesting permission to continue playing Foot Tennis on an ad-hoc basis, likely one evening per week during fair weather, and are open to booking both courts simultaneously to avoid disrupting tennis players.

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#### **Current Position**

The use of the courts is currently governed by Parish Council policies, which specify their permitted use for traditional tennis (bat-and-ball play only). There is no existing provision in policy or booking terms that accommodates alternative sports, including Foot Tennis.

Following receipt of the request, the Chairman of the Council, the Chairman of the Estates Management Committee, and Parish Clerk discussed the matter, and it was

agreed that the request should be formally referred to the Estate Management Committee for consideration.

In the meantime, Mr Baker asked whether the courts could be used prior to the meeting on 24 July. The Clerk responded to confirm that:

- **All permitted uses currently relate to traditional tennis only.**
  - **Foot Tennis should not be played until a formal decision is taken by the Committee.**
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#### Considerations for the Committee

- **Whether the inclusion of Foot Tennis aligns with the intended purpose of the facility.**
  - **Whether allowing other sports may set a precedent for additional non-tennis use.**
  - **Whether any adjustments to policy, signage, or booking terms would be necessary.**
  - **Potential wear-and-tear or risks to the nets and surface.**
  - **Monitoring and enforcement implications.**
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#### Recommendation

Members are asked to consider whether to permit the use of the tennis courts for Foot Tennis, subject to any conditions they may wish to impose (e.g. time restrictions, footwear requirements, court configuration, or booking limitations), or to reaffirm that the courts remain restricted to traditional tennis only.

**Miss Danielle Davis**

**15/07/2025**