

Report: Purchase of Field Roller for Grounds Maintenance

1. Purpose

This report seeks approval for the purchase of a used field roller to enable in-house rolling of sports pitches at Mill Lane Sports Field, replacing the need for buying in contracted services to enable safe and good quality pitches.

2. Background

The Parish Council currently does not own a field roller. Recent discussions with a supplier have identified a suitable used roller, which is more cost effective than a new purchase and in-line with sustainability approaches:

- **Model:** Twose SR8 flat roller
- **Size:** 8ft 5" wide x 30" diameter
- **Delivery:** Included at supplier's convenience

3. Current Cost Comparison

Contracted rolling services for the current year have been quoted at £720 for one season. The purchase of a roller would result in a payback of less than two years.

Purchase cost: £1,350 + VAT one-off capital outlay

Capital Expenditure budget: £4,813

The purchase would result in cost avoidance and reduced reliance on external contractors in future seasons.

4. Benefits of Purchase

- **Cost efficiency:** Payback expected within a short period compared to contractor costs
- **Operational control:** Rolling can be completed at optimal times based on weather and pitch condition
- **Flexibility:** Reduces dependency on external availability
- **Long-term asset:** Provides ongoing value across multiple years and seasons
- **Improved pitch quality management:** Enables more consistent maintenance regime, improving pitch safety and quality.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Parish Council approves the use of Capital Expenditure for the Twose SR8 field roller at a cost of £1,350 + VAT.