



Seaford Town Council Full Council Agenda – Thursday, 5th September 2024

To the Members of the Full Council

Councillors S Adeniji, S Ali, L Boorman, C Bristow, R Buchanan, R Clay, S Dubas, F Hoareau, O Honeyman, R Honeyman, J Lord, S Markwell, O Matthews, J Meek, G Rutland, L Stirton, R Stirton, I Taylor, L Wallraven and M Wearmouth

A meeting of the **Full Council** will be held at **Seaford Baptist Church, Belgrave Road, Seaford, BN25 2EE** on **Thursday, 5th September 2024** at **7.00pm**, which you are summoned to attend.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Chugg'.

Adam Chugg,

Town Clerk

30th August 2024

PLEASE NOTE:

- **The meeting will be recorded and uploaded to the Town Council's YouTube channel shortly after the meeting.**
- **See the end of the agenda for further details of public access and participation.**
- **Ahead of the meeting, the Mayor has requested that a short poem is read before the meeting. Anyone not wishing to take part in this poem reading is invited to wait until 6.55pm before attending the meeting.**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

To consider apologies for absence.

2. Disclosure of Interests

To deal with any disclosure by Members of any disclosable pecuniary interests and interests other than pecuniary interests, as defined under the Seaford Town Council Code of Conduct and the Localism Act 2011, in relation to matters on the agenda.

3. Public Participation

To deal with any questions, or brief representations, from members of the public in accordance with relevant legislation and Seaford Town Council Policy.

4. Petitions

In accordance with the Town Council Petitions Policy, this is a standard agenda item to facilitate any public petitions being presented to, and noted by, Full Council. Please note, that this would not prompt a discussion on the petition at this meeting.

5. Presentation from Seaford Town Football Club

To hear a short presentation from the football club on a number of matters.

6. [Seaford Town Football Club - Request for a Temporary Pitch Side Barrier](#)

To consider report 77/24 seeking the council's approval for the installation of a temporary barrier around the football pitch for the upcoming season, in compliance with the Football Association (FA) Ground Grading requirements (pages 5 to 16).

AGENDA NOTES

For further information about items on this Agenda please contact:

Adam Chugg, Town Clerk, 37 Church Street, Seaford, East Sussex, BN25 1HG

Email: meetings@seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Telephone: 01323 894 870

Circulation:

All Town Councillors and registered email recipients.

Public Access:

Members of the public looking to access this meeting will be able to do so by:

1. Attending the meeting in person.

Due to health and safety restrictions, the number of public in attendance will be limited. The Town Council therefore asks that you contact

meetings@seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk or 01323 894 870 to register your interest in attending at least 24 hours before the meeting.

Spaces will be assigned on a first come, first served basis.

Please note that if you don't register and just attempt to turn up at the meeting, this could result in you not being able to attend if there is no space.

OR

2. Watching the recording of the meeting on the [Town Council's YouTube channel](#) , which will be uploaded after the meeting has taken place.

Public Access to the Venue:

If you are attending the meeting in person, please arrive from 6.45pm ready for a 7pm meeting start.

Public Participation:

Members of the public looking to participate in the public participation section of the meeting must do so in person, by making a verbal statement during the public participation section of the meeting.

Below are some key points for public participation in the meeting:

1. Your statement should be relevant to the activities of the Town Council.
2. You will only be able to speak at a certain point of the meeting; the Chair of the meeting will indicate when this is.

3. You do not have to state your name if you don't want to.
4. If you are unsure of when best to speak, either query this with an officer/councillor ahead of the meeting or raise your hand during the public participation item of the meeting and ask the Chair – they will always be happy to advise.
5. When the Chair has indicated that it is the part of the meeting that allows public participation, raise your hand and the Chair will invite you to speak in order.
6. Statements by members of the public are limited to four minutes and you don't automatically have the right to reply. The Chair may have to cut you short if you overrun on time or try to speak out of turn – this is just to ensure the meeting stays on track.
7. Where required, the Town Council will try to provide a response to your statement but if it is unable to do so at the meeting, may respond in writing following the meeting.
8. Members of the public should not speak at other points of the meeting.
9. A summarised version of your statement, but no personal details, will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Public Comments

Members of the public looking to submit comments on any item of business on the agenda can do so in writing ahead of the meeting and this will be circulated to all councillors.

Comments can be submitted by email to meetings@seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk or by post to the Town Council offices.

Health & Safety Measures:

While Covid restrictions are no longer mandated the Town Council wishes to stay vigilant and mindful of the health and safety of its meeting participants by upholding the requirement that you should not attend the meeting if you are displaying any Covid-19 symptoms (or have tested positive) as identified on the [NHS website](#) or symptoms of any similarly contagious illness



Report No:	77/24
Agenda Item No:	6
Committee:	Full Council
Date:	5 th September 2024
Title:	Seaford Town Football Club (STFC) - Request for a Temporary Pitch Side Barrier
By:	Adam Chugg, Town Clerk and Louise Lawrence Head of Assets, Projects and Services
Purpose of Report:	To seek the council's approval for the installation of a temporary barrier around the football pitch for the upcoming season, in compliance with the Football Association (FA) Ground Grading requirements.

Recommendations
Full Town Council is recommended:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To approve the placement of a temporary pitch perimeter barrier for the upcoming season to ensure Seaford Town Football Club meets the Football Association Ground Grading requirements. 2. To agree that officers will produce a report which considers the impact of the erection of a permanent barrier around the football pitch, in alignment with FA regulations.

1. The Proposal

- 1.1 Please note that this report and decision relates to a temporary barrier around the football pitch, and no other matters.
- 1.2 Seaford Town Football Club (STFC) is currently facing a critical issue regarding the pitch perimeter barrier, which is a mandatory requirement set by the FA Ground.

- 1.3 **Appendix One** shows the request from the football club that this meeting is being asked to consider, namely the erection of a temporary barrier as described in the request. This follows an inspection from the Town Council that found parts of the barrier to be unsafe - the report of this inspection is shown at **Appendix Two**.
- 1.4 Further to this, the football club have also confirmed that 'for the level of football we participate in the FA have set mandatory requirements and the pitch side barrier is a must, we cannot jeopardise our ground grading standards.'
- 1.5 Please note that this is a landowner decision, and one for Council to make. In addition, while we note the dates set out by the football club in their letter, the key date is the 7th of September - their next home match.

2. FA Requirements

- 2.1 The FA National Ground Grading Criteria, page 19, states that:
- 2.2 'There must be a permanent barrier ideally 1.1 Metres high of sound construction and free from all sharp edges, surrounding the pitch on all sides that may be occupied by spectators' for all teams in Steps 1-6 of the football pyramid. The league that Seaford Town Council currently play in is at Step 6.
- 2.3 There is also a further FA Guidance Document - National Ground Grading - Category G [appropriate to NLS Step 6]
- 2.4 This also states:
 - 2.4.1 'there must be a permanent fixed barrier 1.1m high, of sound construction, and free from all sharp edges, surrounding the pitch on all sides that may be occupied by spectators.
 - 2.4.2 The barrier, may be infilled
So, this means that without this barrier, STFC cannot legally play home games at their ground.

3. Impact on Seaford Town Football Club Operations

- 3.1 If STFC is unable to erect the required barrier, the club would be forced to play its home games at another ground, such as Newhaven. This move would have severe financial repercussions, including loss of gate income, kitchen and bar revenue, and hospitality income. Moreover, it would likely lead to a decline in community support, which is crucial for the club's

sustainability. The relocation of home games would also diminish the sense of community and local engagement that STFC has built over the years and avoid fines while maintaining their home ground advantage.

4. Rationale for Council Support

- 4.1 This solution would be in line with previous Council decisions. For example, STFC was granted permission in 2013 to install metal fencing infill in March 2013 and given permission for there to be a barrier in the first place in 2011. Correspondence relating to this is shown at [Appendix Three](#).
- 4.2 It ensures that STFC can continue to host home games, maintain its revenue streams, and preserve the strong community ties that have been built over the years.
- 4.3 Please note that the choice of barrier by the club is shown at Appendix A. The officer view is that this is safe and compliant and, as a temporary measure, reasonable.
- 4.4 At the same time, it will be vital for there to be careful consideration and community engagement before any permanent solution is agreed.

5. Looking Ahead

- 5.1 The temporary barrier would be in place for the duration of the season while the club works on a more permanent solution.
- 5.2 Following on from the installation of the temporary barrier, the football club will bring forward proposals for a more permanent solution for Council to carefully consider.

6. Financial Appraisal

- 6.1 The installation of the temporary barrier will be at the cost of Seaford Town Football Club. There will be no cost to Seaford Town Council.

7. Contact Officer

- 7.1 The Contact Officer for this report is Adam Chugg, Town Clerk.

Appendix One



Wednesday, 14 August 2024

Seaford Town Clerk – Adam Chugg
Seaford Town Council
37 Church Street
Seaford
East Sussex BN25 1HG

Dear Sir,

Re: Crouch Football Pitch Fence Proposal

Following on from your Health & Safety report, STC and STFC meeting held on Friday 9 August and your subsequent email dated Friday 9 August encompassing the football pitch fence we would like to propose the following:

- Retain any safe grey metal barriers and install them behind both goals and current sponsorship board side of the pitch. Sponsorship boards to be taken down and tidied up and attached safely to grey metal barriers
- Remove and take away all unsafe grey metal barriers by **31st August**
- Tidy and paint the white scaffold fence, paint and utensils provided by STFC and club volunteers to action
- Where there will be open areas around the fence, we will install debris scaffold safety netting and secure with secure cable ties, at a cost to the Football Club and no cost to STC. We will also ensure that the netting is clean and tidy, in keeping with the environment.

Netting is Lightweight open mesh. Minimal wind loading on scaffold structures. Quick and easy to install with cable or bungee ties. An ideal solution to protect personnel, buildings and traffic from debris on scaffolding and construction sites. Can also be used as a means of privacy when attached to site fencing. HDPE + UV fabric, weighing 60g per square metre. Tear resistance level - N. Temperature resistance -20°C to 150°C. Woven black reinforced yarn finish with knitted buttonholes. The buttonholes are every 5cm and tear resistance, level - N.

DEBRIS NETTING



•Netting to be installed by STFC by **Tuesday 6th September** (as we could potentially have a senior football fixture proposed to us on this date) the netting is a temporary measure, it is also being used and other football clubs, see photo of East Preston:



We appreciate that the fence will be discussed at length during our club presentation on Thursday 5th September with your Counsellors, however the period you have requested we remove the grey metal barriers by Tuesday 10 September and potentially our next home football match, leaves us no time at all for our volunteers to remove metal fences, erect and fit the temporary netting solution. We also cannot afford to waste a substantial amount of money on something, when we are looking to install a more permanent and robust pitch side fence, therefore we would be incredibly grateful if you could look at this proposal.

We do hope you agree our proposal and look forward to having a response by Wednesday 21 August.

Kind regards,

Handwritten signature of Sarah Scott in blue ink.

Sarah Scott
Seaford Town Football Club - Club Chair

Appendix Two

Site visit to Seaford Town Football Club on 5th August 2024 to inspect surrounding pitch fence.

The fence consists of two parts a scaffold frame and aluminium inserts (railing inserts) which have advertising boards attached.

The list below were observations on the condition of the fence that surrounds the football pitch at The Crouch.

1) White scaffold fence. Photos below.

- a) The fence is in reasonable condition and is fairly sound around the whole pitch.
- b) All of the scaffold fence needs painting to hold back rust that is developing.
- c) Parts of the scaffold fence need repairing due to rust (rusted through metal) these are in vertical and horizontal positions and need new scaffold parts installed.
- d) Attached are some photos of previous repairs.







2) **Aluminium inserts (railings) between scaffold posts. Photos below.**

- a) Large gaps on individual section
- b) Vertical uprights broken with spiky pieces sticking out at various angles.
- c) Many sections are now bent out of shape
- d) The U-bolts that hold the aluminium inserts to the scaffold fence have sharp edges.
- e) Some sections are loose or not attached.
- f) The hooks that connect each aluminium section are not attached and corroded.
- g) Advertising boards may have had some impact on the inserts due to high winds







Recommendations.

If the surrounding fence is to be retained and not removed and new provided the below are my recommendations.

Scaffold fence.

I would recommend that the scaffold fence is repaired in a few locations, new parts are required and when completed the fence can be painted to hold back any new corrosion.

The scaffold fence is overall in a reasonable condition.

Aluminium inserts (railings) between scaffold posts

I recommend the aluminium inserts that are damaged and are a health and safety hazard are recovered and replaced.

All of the inserts need to be locked together correctly as not to expose the rusty hazardous hooks.

Appendix Three

Mr B Thomsett
Seaford Town Football Club
c/o Cinque Ports Public House
49 High Street
Seaford
BN25 1PP

Direct dial 01323 894870

E-mail Ben.king@seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Your ref

Date 4th August 2011

Dear Bob

RE: Access route and Fencing for Seaford Town Football Club

At the Community Services Committee meeting held on 28th July 2011; one of the items up for discussion was the construction of a new access route and fencing for the Football Club.

It was agreed that the Football Club could install fencing and barriers for secure access at Seaford Town Football Club and first team pitch subject to the final approval of the scheme by me, the Projects and Facilities Manager.

Please arrange a meeting with me at the earliest opportunity to discuss the new installation, via my assistant, Dawn Thompson, who holds my diary.

Yours sincerely

Ben King
Project & Facilities Manager