

Stoke St Michael community field
Annual report to the parish council April 2022

This has been a year of renewed activity and some startling dilemmas. The junior soccer with Midsomer Norton has returned with their Under 14 season underway. This will continue with two age groups next autumn. Shepton Mallet will begin to use the smaller pitch for their Under 11s and 12s also in the late summer. However, the springtime storms were a catastrophe for us.

Stoke Rovers has folded as a team. This is the first time for many years there has been no senior soccer. This is a loss to the village and the knock on effect is significant to the pub! Financially we have picked up the junior fixtures paying for their pitch hire.

We have a generous grant from the parish council, the bulk of which goes on mowing. This costs £180 a cut. The safety report from the SPFA again highlighted the slide and the trip hazards in the play area. The skate park is less of a problem but there is still work to do.

The major problem arose in the spring gales. The northern boundary wall collapsed by the Frog Lane car park and the resulting inspection revealed that the whole 120m of block work was insecure. It is unlikely insurance will cover this structure in its present state. It is our responsibility, and we wish to replace the 1950s wall with modern fencing. The insurance assessor has concerns about the tennis court perimeter as well. Furthermore the play area fence was crushed in part by the fall of a neighbouring tree. The cost of restoring these features is beyond our means.

It is important that I record how grateful I am to Amanda Taylor and Keith Hambly for all their help. The trustees and I have much to thank them for this past year.

John Johnston Community field chairman.