

Swanage Town & Herston Football Club

(a) To consider update regarding proposed works to existing sports hall at Day's Park and associated grant request

At its meeting on 6th May 2026, the Town Council agreed to provide Swanage Town & Herston Football Club with grant funding of up to £45,000 towards the removal of asbestos sheeting from the redundant sports hall at Day's Park, as part of a wider proposal to demolish the building. Release of that funding was subject to conditions, including confirmation of the final contract sum, compliance with relevant planning requirements, and completion of the demolition before the start of the 2026/27 playing season.

Since that decision, the Club has asked the Council to reconsider the conditions attached to the grant. The Club has explained that it believes that full demolition before the start of the season would create significant operational and financial difficulties, including disruption to home fixtures, training, volunteers and league requirements. It has stated that it remains supportive of the long-term redevelopment of the site but is seeking a safe and practical interim solution that allows football activity to continue while essential works are progressed.

The Club has subsequently submitted a revised proposal for funding to commission targeted works to remove damaged asbestos cladding from the west elevation of the sports hall and redundant store, install replacement steel cladding, and carry out localised asbestos removal and patch repair works to damaged cladding on the northern elevation. The Club has supplied an estimated cost of these works, but this is subject to the potential acquisition of further quotes.

A drone inspection of the sports hall roof has also been undertaken. This did not identify immediate significant failure of the roof covering, although it confirmed that the asbestos cement roof is aged and fragile and will require ongoing monitoring. Any future works would need to be carried out by competent contractors.

Further to meetings between representatives of the Town Council and the Club during June and July, and discussion at the Council meeting held on 22nd June 2026, consideration has been given to the terms of a short-term lease, including allocation of responsibilities for public liability insurance and risk management while the sports hall remains in place. This is an important matter to be resolved through the negotiation of lease terms.

Martin Ayres
Town Clerk

August 2026