

PRESENT:-

Councillor M. Bonfield – Chairman

Councillor M. Coward

Councillor T. Foster

Councillor J. Lejeune

Councillor C. Moreton

Councillor C. Sutton

Councillor G. Suttle

Councillor C. Tomes

Councillor S. Vile

There were no members of the public or press and media present.

Public Participation Time

There were no matters raised during Public Participation Time.

239. **Apologies**

Apologies for their inability to attend the meeting were received from Councillors Burridge and Dorrington.

240. **Declarations of Interest**

Members were invited to declare their interests and consider any requests for Grants of Dispensations in accordance with Section 9 and Appendix B of the Council's Code of Conduct.

There were no declarations to record on this occasion.

241. **Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas**

There were no matters raised.

242. **Swanage Town and Herston Football Club – To consider proposed agreement and financial contribution in respect of demolition of former sports hall**

Further to Minute No. 83 (d) of the Council Meeting held on 15th September 2025, consideration was given to a briefing paper setting out proposals in respect of the demolition of the former sports hall at Day's Park, as part of the wider partnership arrangements between the Town Council, Swanage Town and Herston Football Club and the Day's Park Community Sports Trust CIO to deliver improved community sports facilities.

Members noted that structural and asbestos surveys had identified that the former sports hall required removal, which would also facilitate redevelopment of the site in accordance with planning permission granted on 19th March 2025. It was further noted that a Memorandum of Understanding was being developed to set out the respective responsibilities of each of the three parties. This included the obligations that the Football Club needed to fulfil in commissioning the demolition works, including compliance with health and safety regulations and a range of other statutory requirements.

It was noted that the Council had included provision within the 2026/27 revenue budget for making a financial contribution of up to £60,000 to the Football Club to support demolition works. It was reported that the Club had subsequently undertaken a competitive procurement exercise to identify the best contractor to undertake asbestos removal works, in terms of both cost and quality. The Club had now approached the Town Council for a sum of up to £45,000 to fund that part of the demolition works.

Members considered a range of conditions that the Club would need to fulfil prior to the release of funds, including providing written assurance that the demolition of the sports hall would be completed prior to the start of the 2026/27 playing season and confirmation that the Club had complied with all pre-demolition conditions contained in the planning consent. Members emphasised that these conditions must be adhered to, and that the complete removal of the sports hall structure must be completed within the agreed timeframe.

In terms of the broader fundraising programme for improvements at Day's Park, councillors requested an update from the Club, and it was noted that a meeting of the Sport, Leisure and Wellbeing Working Party would be arranged for the near future.

It was proposed by Councillor Tomes, seconded by Councillor Foster and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Town Council provides a grant to Swanage and Herston Football Club of up to £45,000 towards the costs associated with the demolition of the Sports Hall, the release of funds to be conditional upon written confirmation of the following:

- The final contract sum for the removal of the sheeting, supported by submission of a copy of the contractor's invoice;
- That the Club will complete the demolition of the remaining sports hall structure prior to the start of the 2026/27 playing season;
- That the Club has complied with all conditions of the planning application requiring action prior to the commencement of demolition works;
- That the Club will fulfil the obligations set out in the draft Memorandum of Understanding in connection with the demolition of the sports hall.

The Meeting closed at 6.40 p.m.