

**Report on a meeting with football representatives held on Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Council Office.**

Present: Cllrs. B. Norris (Chairman), John Jordan (Vice-Chairman) + Mr. P. Down, Mrs. H. Down, Mr. Gareth ??????, Mr. Tom Read

Mr. Down explained the present officer make up of the football clubs:

Neil Francis – Chairman of Adult Football

Tom Read – Chairman of Youth Football

Julie Hodge – Secretary of Youth Football

Hayley Down – Secretary of Adult Football

Peter Gatehouse – Treasurer for both Adult & Youth Football

The Chairman asked for some more information on the covered seating areas. It was clarified that the football club would maintain the seating areas. The framework for all the seats is galvanized steel. The Under 18s and both adult football teams use the barriered pitch. They do not make any charges to spectators to come and watch the football although they do go around with a bucket asking for a donation towards a programme.

The Clerk explained that she had sent an email to the head of planning to ask if the Town Council needed to apply for planning permission for these structures. Unfortunately, despite sending a reminder earlier this week, a response had still not yet been received.

The Chairman said that he thought that all councillors wanted to support this but was concerned that there may be negative feedback from members of the public and therefore felt it was important to present them with as much information as possible beforehand. He therefore asked if the football club could produce a scaled site plan showing the location of the football pitch with the dug outs and seating areas. These plans could be used to help with the public consultation and also with any planning application, if required.

The Clerk explained that Wessex had been out to commission the boilers and explained that the water heater boiler in the changing rooms was now working and the heating boiler was also working. With regards to the water heater boiler, Mr. Down had been present whilst the engineer was there and it was explained to him that there should be no storage materials on the floor around the boiler cage. However, Mr. Down had also said that it was not necessary for the football club to have as many shower heads and these could be reduced to 3 on each side with 1 for the referee (7 shower heads in total). The Wessex engineer thought that a Combination Boiler could probably service that number of shower heads and Mr. Down said that it could be possible to add the cost of a new boiler to the grant that they are currently applying for. (They are already applying to decorate the changing rooms.) At the meeting it was also agreed to discuss, with plumbing engineers, whether it would be possible to have anything running off a Calor Gas supply rather than a mains gas supply as the standing charges on the mains gas coming from the school will always be high. There was also a discussion about Renewable Energy supplies and it was agreed to make investigations about this.

NB – it was noted that the MUGA lights are on late at night and it was agreed that these should be switched off at 9.00 p.m. during the winter months.

With regards to the future of the changing rooms, the Football Club indicated that they would be very willing to consider an agreement between Mere Town Council and the Football Club to take overall control of the building or a lease direct with Wiltshire Council to the Football Club. It was agreed that these options should be investigated for further discussion at a future date. In the meantime, it was confirmed that the football clubs would be contributing a further £500 jointly, towards the use of the facilities this year.