

Halls and Green Spaces Committee

Date: 11th November 2019

Title: Witney Swifts Relocation to West Witney Sports Ground

Contact Officer: Operations and Estates Officer John Hickman

Background

This report has been prepared in order to inform the Councillors of the current position regarding Witney Swifts relocation to West Witney Sports Ground to enable the club to progress in the Leagues and expand.

Action Taken

The Operations and Estates Officer met with members of the Witney Swifts at West Witney Sports Ground on the 19th September to discuss their requirements in order to move to West Witney Sports Ground.

Requirements

Both the first and second teams of the Swifts would play at West Witney with the Swifts third team moving to the Leys along with Audley Travel for their games.

Witney Swifts will not be moving to the Cherwell League in the 2020 Cricket season, the intention is to remain in their current league using the season to address the requirements that need to be in place in order to be able to move to the Cherwell League 3 in 2021.

The Swifts require the following additional facilities to be available to enter the Cherwell League.

- Catering Facilities
- Covers
- Practice Nets
- Score Box
- Roller
- Storage

The Swifts have requested permission to place a shipping container purchased by them of either a 10' x 8' or a 20' x 8' at West Witney Sports Ground to store their equipment, the Operation and Estates Officer would suggest this is positioned in the same area as the Park Run shipping container was placed.

They have already been donated a set of second-hand cricket covers which they are in the process of refurbishing which will need to be stored at West Witney when not in use.

They would to be able to have a mobile cricket practice net which they say they should be able to attain a grant to purchase.

They would like to set up a cricket score box/shed on the West Witney site which again they will look to fund this themselves with perhaps the help of some grant funding.

They have requested use of the Cricket Pavilion for teas etc. at West Witney which currently needs some upgrading of the kitchen and decoration. They have stated they are willing to carry out this work themselves, The Cricket pavilion will require more tables and chairs, the Operations and Estates Officer believes that WTC has some of the old chairs from Landale Hall that are in good condition and the tables from the Leys Cricket pavilion in store that could be used for this.

The club would want to have their own roller, mower and marking equipment on site to enable them to roll the wicket and re-mark the creases during the match interval etc. The club would need to provide relevant RA's and PLI for these works.

Requirement to store covers etc. over winter in old contractor's depot area.

The club has not currently made any request of WTC to provide any funding for the above equipment and works.

There would be additional costs to WTC to provide an extra wicket for practice on a regular basis, for contractors regarding the covers place moving to carry out works etc.

The Operations and Estates Officer has spoken to Continental Landscapes to check if they would have any issues with the Swifts rolling re-marking wickets etc. they have no objection to this.

The council may wish to contribute to the Swifts with a grant for match funding to assist them with finding funding for the equipment etc. they require.

The Swifts are concerned about the current position of West Witney Sports and Social Club and what effect this might have on the club being at West Witney next season. Currently the Cricket pavilion is part of the West Witney Sports and Social Club Lease and the club would also require use of changing rooms.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

Financial implications

There may an associated cost for additional Grounds Contract work and an additional cost should council grant a sum of money for Match funding.

Recommendations

Member are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. The Swifts request to use the Cricket pavilion at West Witney Sports Ground and to carry out works to the kitchen units etc. and the decoration.
2. The requirement for additional chairs and tables in the pavilion, provision can be made from items in storage.
3. Permission to place a 10' x 8' or a 20' x 8' shipping container at West Witney Sports Ground.
4. Permission to storage cricket covers etc. over winter in the old Grounds Contractors depot.
5. Permission for portable Cricket practice nets. Additional costs for provision of practice wicket to be added to the ground contract.
6. Permission to place a cricket score box/shed at West Witney Sports Ground in a suitable area for cricket but not affecting other sports at the site.
7. Permission for Swifts Cricket to carry out additional match rolling/marketing etc.
8. Council consider giving the Swifts a grant for match funding towards the cost of the additional equipment required for the Cherwell League.