

STATUS REPORT FROM CHARLBURY TOWN FOOTBALL AND SPORTS CLUB

We understand that Councillors are interested in how the Football Club was established and how it is working.

Background: When the Community Centre was built, the Club's former premises (part of the original Spendlove school) were demolished. This left Charlbury as the only town in West Oxfordshire without a dedicated football clubhouse. The TC then set up a Steering Group to oversee the building of the premises.

A local architect (working at cost) was engaged and produced a QS cost of £182,000. Grants of £70,000 from the TC and £50,000 from WODC were approved and planning permission was granted in 2017.

From the outset it was recognised that the building was to be in the ownership of the TC and would be a community asset in perpetuity but that it was to be designed and built as a football and sports club.

It was agreed that the capital shortfall (£62,000) would be bridged by small grant aid and 'work in kind' by local supporting tradesmen. Grants were forthcoming from a variety of sources including the Beer Festival, the Blenheim Trust, buy a brick, donors and Liz Leffman's Councillor Fund. The remaining sum has been covered by the Football Club £32,355, the Glasgow Foundation £5,000, Nine Acres Management Committee, £2500 and a private donation of £250

Current: The F&SC knows that it is a tenant of a town building and will expect to pay an annual rental to its landlord (the TC) when that is agreed. At the outset it was assumed that this would be a 'peppercorn' rent in recognition of the benefit provided to the town's major asset: Nine Acres. The initial rental to be determined by the Nine Acres Management Committee, which includes club representatives.

The Club has Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) status with HMRC which establishes it as a 'not for profit' entity. This means that any profits from the Club's trading will be available, upon application, to the user groups of Nine Acres Fields.

The Football and Sports Club is run by a committee which reports the Nine Acres Management Committee. The Town Council is represented on the NAMC committee which provides accountability.

Currently the Club is seriously in deficit like all licensed premises but is expected to thrive as lockdown is lifted.

Cost/ Income breakdown.

Total Grants. £160,105 Total Expenditure. £160,031

As anticipated this is "less" than the QS assessed cost since a significant amount of work was undertaken by suitably skilled and qualified volunteers and Sports club members. For example the building was decorated internally by a local trade's person without cost. This typified the community input to the building work and based on the QS budget shows a "saving" of circa £22,000. An excellent effort, which has contributed to a well finished building and community asset. Please come along to see this for yourself.

On behalf of Charlbury Town Football and Sports Club. June 2021.