

To consider providing funding for Wroughton Youth Football Club to purchase and install a storage container on the existing concrete base at Maunsell Way pavilion.

Wroughton Parish Council is intending to lease Maunsell Way Pavilion to Swindon Model Railway Club. The Club requires the whole pavilion, therefore WPC has installed an external access to the toilets so formal hirers of Maunsell Way field can continue to access the toilets without needing to enter the pavilion. WYFC currently stores their goals and line marker in a small cupboard between the internal and external fire exits in the pavilion. Back at the end of 2023/ beginning of 2024, we advised WYFC that they would need to find alternative storage as the Model Railway Club required the whole of the interior of the building under the terms of the lease. This was then confirmed to WYFC by email as far back as 17th January 2024.

In January 2025, we advised WYFC that WPC was progressing with a license from Swindon Borough Council to sublet Maunsell Way pavilion to the Model Railway Club, and that we would like to help them find an alternative storage solution so they could move their items out of the storage cupboard between the fire exits. We gave them the details of Wroughton Community Trust so they could make an application for funding, or they could apply elsewhere. We obtained an indicative quote for them for a container from Bell Containers of approximately £3,000 + VAT. The total depends on which additional options are required including sleepers, poles, padlocks & keys etc. Please see emailed quote as separate document.

We contacted WYFC in early January 2025 with the quote and offered to help them put a grant application together. They came into the office to discuss this. We then emailed them again at the start of February to find out how they were progressing with a grant application and again offered to help. Having heard nothing, we emailed them again at the end of February and offered help, when we were advised that they hadn't been able to progress with a grant application due to work commitments. They had got a second quote for a container which totals about £3,035: [Please click here to view your quote](#). We offered to help again at the start of March. In mid-March we notified WYFC that Wroughton Community Trust had awarded the majority of their money so not to apply if they hadn't already done so, which they hadn't. We asked WYFC if they could apply to any other bodies for funding for a storage container, as if they couldn't apply to eg: Wilts FA or Sport England, we would help them look for alternative options.

It was only at this point that WYFC came back and raised concerns that people living nearby might not like a container which they were concerned could be graffiti'd and they requested to continue using the cupboard inbetween the fire exits. We have explained several times before and since that this is not an option. We understand that they already use storage containers at North Wroughton and the school field without issue.

Whilst we have been verbally advised that WYFC now does not have the time to make a grant application anywhere, even with help from the Parish Office to put that application together for them, we have recently received the following from WYFC by email:

As a club we do not have funds to facilitate buying a container. Although we are not totally opposed to using one, it was raised that local residents may object to this and see it as a football club causing issue, to which we would want to distance ourselves. The concern raised was what happens if and probably when it gets graffitied.

We would stand by our suggestion that we keep the store cupboard, with no access to the main part of the building. I am sure the council would want to continue supporting the voluntary work the team at the club do, helping local children have a purpose in the community and keeping active.

Regards

WPC supports WYFC and has done for years, by paying the grounds contractor's costs of the regular cutting of the grass youth football pitches, as well as paying for additional ad hoc cuts if the grass has grown suddenly due to the weather. They are also the main users of the toilets. The Deputy Clerk will bring details of the grass cutting costs of the pitches to the committee meeting.

We have explained to WYFC that they will need to remove their kit from the storage cupboard as soon as the Model Railway Club signs the lease, and if, by that time, they have not found an alternative storage solution, we will help them by storing their kit but this is likely to be in the Weir Field garage or at the workshop.

Planning permission was not sought for the 2 very large containers used by the Grounds Team before they moved into their current workshop. An 8x7 container would be much smaller and much less intrusive for neighbouring residents.

Please see the quote from Bell Containers (separate document) and also the separate sheet detailing potential grant funding opportunities which we understand WYFC has discounted on the basis it would take too long from now to make the application, wait for the outcome, place the order and get the storage container in place, assuming any grant application was successful.

Recommendation

Members are asked to consider:

- **whether they wish to fund WYFC up to £3,000 +VAT for them to purchase their own container. This means they would own it and be responsible for maintaining it. It would be sited on the existing concrete base next to the pavilion.**

OR

- **whether they wish to tell WYFC to make a grant application with the help of the Projects & Grants Officer, and fund the costs of a storage container up to £3,000 only if the grant funding application is unsuccessful.**