

Agenda Item 14 –Jan Meeting

MUGA Project

Council support was agreed in principle at the October meeting (minute 2159f) and a letter to that effect was sent to the Cricket Club.

It is a requirement of the CLIF (community led infrastructure fund) grant funding that supporting documentation be included with the grant application. I have collated all documents required including parish council accounts, governance, land titles, bank statements etc in advance of the grant application.

The bulk of the grant application has been completed by the Cricket Club.

A recent meeting with the grant co-ordinator at WDC indicated a very positive response to the information provided thus far. Once the application has been submitted, a decision will be made by WDC within 3 months from the February assessment meeting, which is then followed by the contractor lead time and an on-site presence of up to 4 weeks for project completion. Time is therefore fairly tight for completion of the project by the summer/autumn of 2026. Ideally this project would take place prior to the take-up of the orchard grant if awarded (see item 15).

The grant is for 80% of the project cost and with a potential cost up to £100,000, £20,000 seed funding needs to be raised.

I have checked with a VAT expert, and the council will be able to re-claim VAT on the project.

The Cricket Club will pledge £5,000 and lead additional fund-raising. They would like a commitment of £10,000 from the Parish Council.

I have recently re-assessed CIL allowance spending and the council had in total received £24,500 since 2019 of which £10392.19 remains unspent. (This amount is included in our current reserves). I would suggest that this whole amount be allocated to the MUGA project since the bulk of the £10,392 has to be spent by April 2027 in order to avoid a reclaim by SDNP.

At a recent meeting with the clerk, Cllrs Seeley and Bustard agreed an approach to council oversight of the tender process for contractors and those suggestions have been incorporated in the Cricket Club's outstanding actions list attached. The Cricket Club will run the tender process.

Proposal:

1. Agree to set aside the CIL funding of £10,392.19 contribution as seed funding.
2. Delegate scrutiny of the tender process to the Pavilion Project committee.

Phil Burgess

Clerk to East Dean and Friston