

**Committee: FULL COUNCIL**

**Date: 28 October 2019**

**Title: Allhallows Playing Fields, Honiton – Addendum report**

**Purpose of Report**

To provide Members with further information regarding the plans submitted by East Devon District Council to dispose of Allhallows Playing Fields to Honiton Rugby Club received.

**Report**

1. On 23<sup>rd</sup> October, subsequent to the agenda for the meeting being sent out with the Deputy Clerk's initial report relating to the matter, the Deputy Clerk spoke on the telephone to Mr Rob Harrison from the Property Services Department at EDDC.
2. He confirmed that the proposed new lease would only give Honiton Rugby Club exclusive use and possession of Pitch No1. He advised that in effect the current lease provided for such use and possession and as such it was EDDC's view that very little would change in relation to the use of Pitch 1 by the Rugby Club.
3. He advised that as the current lease had a remaining term of under 8 years. This prevented the Rugby Club from accessing sources of funding and that the Rugby Club required further security of tenure for the future.
4. He accepted that the new lease did not restrict Pitch number 1's use by the Rugby Club to the traditional rugby season from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 30<sup>th</sup> April but advised that the Rugby Club's usage requirements had changed over the years and as such they needed all year round access to the pitches.
5. He advised that it was EDDC's view that there would be no impact on the public's use of the playing fields as a result of the new lease. The rugby club will not have exclusive rights to Pitch No2. He stated that EDDC did not believe that the proposed lease would lead to any greater risk of access issues for the public to the playing fields, nor would the public's ability to use the playing fields be affected in any way.
6. Mr Harrison conceded that it would have been helpful if this information had been made public sooner and took on board the Deputy Clerk's suggestion that even now EDDC should issue details regarding the proposal and the reasons for it to the wider public.

## **AGENDA ITEM 6**

- 7.** The Deputy Clerk has also now spoken with Andy Canniford from Honiton Rugby Club. He confirmed that he would be attending the Honiton Town Council meeting on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October to answer any questions raised by Councillors and or members of the public regarding the proposal. If anyone has any concerns or questions that they wanted to raise with him prior to the meeting he can be contacted by email – **andicanni@hotmail.com**
  
- 8.** Members to note the report and provide their recommendation regarding the proposal once the matter has been debated.

**Heloise Marlow  
Deputy Town Clerk  
October 2019**