



Hednesford Town Council Motion Proposal

Hednesford Forest Football Club

Report of: Community Officer

Meeting: Finance, Operations and Personnel Committee

Date: 13.10.26

Agenda Item: 7a

Classification: Public

Community Support Grant: Hednesford Forest Football Club

1. Purpose of Report

To seek Council approval for a temporary variation to the use of equipment purchased by Hednesford Forest Football Club through a £250.00 Hednesford Town Council Community Support Grant.

2. Background

Hednesford Forest Football Club received a Community Support Grant of £250.00 towards the purchase of football equipment to support coached football sessions for children and young people through the Club's Youth Academy.

The grant funding was used to purchase the equipment identified within the grant application. The equipment was subsequently used to support regular coached sessions for young people between May and the end of July.

Unfortunately, due to illness and a reduction in the number of volunteer coaches available, the Club is currently unable to operate the Youth Academy at a viable level and the sessions have therefore been suspended.

The Club has advised that it has not discontinued the Youth Academy and is continuing to actively seek additional volunteer coaches, with the intention of restarting the youth sessions, hopefully in the New Year.

3. Current Position

While the Youth Academy is suspended, the equipment purchased through the grant remains the property of Hednesford Forest Football Club.

The junior footballs and goalposts are currently being stored ready for the resumption of the Youth Academy.

The Club has asked for the Council's agreement for some of the equipment, specifically bibs and cones, to continue to be used in the interim by its Monday Night Football six-a-side group.

This is an adult football initiative established by Hednesford Forest Football Club to support men experiencing difficulties with their mental health and wellbeing. The Club has advised that the sessions have been well received and are proving successful.

The Club has confirmed that:

- the Youth Academy has been suspended rather than permanently closed;
- it continues to actively seek volunteer coaches to enable the Youth Academy to restart;
- junior footballs and goalposts purchased for the Youth Academy will remain in storage for its future use;
- only appropriate equipment, currently the senior bibs and cones, will be used by the Monday Night Football group in the interim;
- the Hednesford Town Council logo will be displayed on promotional material for the Monday Night Football sessions, recognising the Council's contribution; and
- Councillors would be welcome to visit a Monday Night Football session to see the provision taking place.

4. Considerations

The original purpose of the Community Support Grant has been met insofar as the equipment was purchased and used to provide the youth football sessions for which funding was awarded.

The current suspension of the Youth Academy has arisen due to circumstances affecting the availability of volunteer coaches rather than a decision by the Club to discontinue its youth provision.

Allowing the senior bibs and cones to be used temporarily by the Monday Night Football group would ensure that grant-funded equipment continues to provide a community benefit while the Club seeks to re-establish its Youth Academy.

The remaining youth-specific equipment would continue to be retained for its original purpose.

Council is therefore asked to determine whether it is satisfied with this temporary variation to the use of the grant-funded equipment.

5. Financial Implications

There are no additional financial implications for the Council arising from this request. The £250.00 grant has already been awarded and the equipment purchased.

6. Recommendation

Members are asked to consider and approve the temporary use of the senior bibs and cones purchased through the Hednesford Town Council Community Support Grant by Hednesford Forest Football Club's Monday Night Football group, subject to:

1. the equipment remaining available for its originally intended use should the Youth Academy restart;
2. the junior footballs and goalposts continuing to be retained for the Youth Academy;
3. the Club continuing its efforts to recruit volunteer coaches and re-establish the Youth Academy; and
4. Hednesford Town Council's support being acknowledged on promotional material for the Monday Night Football sessions.

Suggested resolution

RESOLVED: That Council approves the temporary variation in use of the equipment purchased by Hednesford Forest Football Club through the Hednesford Town Council Community Support Grant, permitting the senior bibs and cones to be used by the Club's Monday Night Football group while the Youth Academy is suspended, on the understanding that the equipment will remain available for its original purpose upon the resumption of the Youth Academy.