

Committee: FULL COUNCIL

Date: 28 November 2023

Title: Application for a container from Iminster Sports Club Limited (ISCL)

Purpose of Report

For members to consider an application from ISCL to add a second storage container to the compound at Britten's Field

Recommendation:

Members to Resolve to agree to the request from Iminster Sports Club Ltd to site a second container in their compound on Britten's Field.

Report:

1. ISCL have already received permission from Iminster Town Council to install a container on land at Britten's field in which they currently store equipment.
2. There has been an application from ISCL to place a second container in the compound for storage purposes. They were asked to ensure that any application to the council contained information as to whether they would require Planning permission for the second container and a site location.
3. The request and subsequent correspondence relating to the siting of the container has been appended to this report in **Appendix 15A**.
4. In the response from the Planning Officer it would indicate that if ISCL are to site the container then they will not be required to have planning permission as long as its use is related to activities that they already support. The requested information has now been provided and is attached to the report.
5. There have been questions asked about why this request is coming to Full Council and has not been dealt with under the clerk's delegated authority. The reason is very straightforward. This is a much higher profile request and is likely to cause concern amongst various groups within Iminster due to the visibility and location of the container. It was felt by having the full support of the Town Council it would help dispel some of that concern.

6. In order to confirm that the clerk does have the delegated authority to make these decisions please see the following.

1.1.3 In addition, the Town Clerk has the delegated authority to undertake the following matters on behalf of the Council:

- *Notwithstanding any delegations to committees, to manage the day to day operation of the Council's services, buildings, land and all other assets for which the Council has responsibility, in line with the budgets and policies approved by Members. This is to include the overseeing of all events and activities that take place on the Council's land.*
7. Discussions on these matters were held with members of the council at the time and the decision to place this particular item on the agenda was not done on a unilateral basis.
8. Just because the clerk has delegated authority does not mean that it has to be used. The full responses to the queries that were raised are detailed in **Appendix 15B**. It was a shame however that accusations were intimated that officers were treating organisations differently just because of who they were. It should also be noted that this application has nothing to do with any other business relating to Ilminster Town Council and ISCL.
9. This has been handled transparently by officers and organisations have been treated as equally and sympathetically as possible at all times.
10. It is hoped that a member of ISCL will be available to answer questions in respect of this application if deemed necessary.
11. Members are asked to Resolve to agree to the request from Ilminster Sports Club Ltd to site a second container in their compound on Britten's Field.
12. As always members are free to come up with alternative Recommendations should they so choose as a result of discussions held over the topic.

Mark Tredwin
Town clerk
November 2023