

**AXMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OLD COURTHOUSE COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE MAIN HALL AT THE GUILDHALL ON MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017 AT 4.00  
P.M.**

1. PRESENT: Cllrs. G.S. Godbeer (Chairman), D.R.H. Hull A.T. Moulding and the Town Clerk. No members of the press or public.

CLLR. MOULDING DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST AS BEING A MEMBER OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS:

ARC BEREAVEMENT, AXMINSTER AND DISTRICT HOSPISCARE, AXMINSTER HERITAGE LTD., AXMINSTER HOSPITAL LEAGUE OF FRIENDS, AXMINSTER MUSICAL THEATRE, AXMINSTER PATIENTS PARTICIPATION GROUP, AXMINSTER REGENERATION PROGRAMME BOARD, AXMINSTER TOWN CRICKET CLUB, CLOAKHAM LAWN SPORTS CENTRE, CLOAKHAM LAWN SPORTS CENTRE LTD., CLOWANCE CHARITABLE TRUST, FRIENDS OF AXMINSTER CHURCH, LYME REGIS GOLF CLUB, TONY COLES CHARITABLE TRUST, VIRTUE AND HONOUR LODGE NO 494, CONSERVATIVE PARTY, CONSERVATIVE CLUB, EAST DEVON CONSERVATIVE GROUP, DEVON COUNTY CONSERVATIVE GROUP, MEMBER OF THE CONSERVATIVE COUNCILLORS' ASSOCIATION.

2. APOLOGIES : Cllrs. P.G. Hayward (Vice-chairman), L.A..Rowe and J.W. Walden.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016 : the minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2016, having been approved and adopted by the Town Council were signed by the Chairman.

4. PUBLIC FORUM: None.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016 NOT COVERED BY AGENDA ITEMS: None.

6. GARDEN MATTERS

a) Ivy – this had been removed from the shed and the rear of the Arts Cafe. The roof of the shed is in poor condition. Temporary measures had been taken to secure loose slates but work will be required to the shed wall plate.

Quotes have been obtained from contractors for remedial works on the rear wall of the Arts Cafe but concerns were expressed regarding damp penetrating the walls from the raised flower bed. The Town Clerk will seek the views of a consultant surveyor regarding this before proceeding further with the quotes.

b) Programme of works – if necessary, the town handyman will assist with this.

7. MAINTENANCE MATTERS:

a) Roof and Guttering – quotes obtained for this work will be considered under item 10

b) Other Exterior Works – it was resolved that a quotation to repair

c) Senior Citizens' Centre – no matters raised.

d) Axminster Arts Cafe – a request to mount a retractable awning had been received. It was resolved that the opinion of a consultant surveyor be sought regarding any impact this might have on the structural integrity of the building.

e) Tourist Information Centre – nothing to report.

f) Devon County Council Office – nothing to report.

g) Former Museum Area – the town handyman will tack down any loose plywood screeding in the courtroom.

8. FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT: the Town Clerk is still working on this.

Cllr. Hull proposed that under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings ) Act 1960, (as amended by the Local Government Act 1972 the public, (including the press) be excluded from the meeting as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. Agreed

9. TENANTS FOR VACATED PARTS OF THE BUILDING the Town Clerk will contact the group of artists which had expressed an interest in using the main court room. Although an expression of interest had been received in respect of the Tourist Information Centre which will be vacated in April, it was agreed that this should not be considered until the premises had been advertised in case others were also interested.

10. LEASES: the Town Clerk had asked the solicitor to prepare a lease for the Constable's Room. It was agreed that it would be appropriate to review all leases during the coming year.

11. QUOTES FOR MAINTENANCE WORKS:

a) Two quotations to inspect and clean the guttering were considered. Both were very close in price. It was resolved to accept the quote from the building firm rather than the specialist cleaning firm as the former would be able to carry out any necessary repairs.

b) It was resolved to accept a quote obtained from a building contractor for repairs to the flat roof over the Tourist Information Office and the slate roof over the cells and re-fit four slates over the museum office wing.

c) It was resolved to accept the quotation to fit an additional smoke detector and replace the existing heads as these were over 10 years old.

d) It was felt that a further quote should be obtained in respect of the lighting of the stairwell.

Signed ..... Date .....