

AXMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BUILDINGS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD AT 6.00 p.m. ON MONDAY, 30th JULY 2018 AT AXMINSTER GUILDHALL.

1. PRESENT: Cllr. J.W. Walden, (Town Mayor), Cllr. A.L.Young (Deputy Mayor), Cllr. Bourner, Cllr. D.R.H. Hull, , the Town Clerk and the Deputy Town Clerk. 0 member of the public , 0 representative of the press.

CLLR. YOUNG, IN HER CAPACITY AS GUILDHALL MANAGER FOR WHICH SHE DECLARES A PECUNIARY INTEREST, HAS A DISPENSATION TO SPEAK ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE GUILDHALL PROVIDED THE PECUNIARY INTEREST IS NOT OF OVER-RIDING SIGNIFICANCE

CLLRS. HULL DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST AS BEING A MEMBER OF AXMINSTER GUILDHALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

CLLRS. WALDEN DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST AS BEING A MEMBER OF AXMINSTER COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE.

CLLR. WALDEN DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST AS BEING CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNORS OF AXE VALLEY ACADEMY AND AS BEING A MEMBER OF AXMINSTER TWINNING ASSOCIATION

2. APOLOGIES: Cllr. P.G. Hayward, Cllr. Leat and Cllr. Rowe.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING: These were signed by the Chairman.

Insurance – the motor vehicle insurance had been renewed with a different provider as the rate was cheaper. Enquiries will be made as to whether there is a legal requirement for tractors to have an M.O.T. and how, otherwise, it could be proved that our vehicles are roadworthy.

4. PUBLIC FORUM:- None.

5.FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) TOWN COUNCIL INSURANCE : The Town Clerk is in the process of obtaining comparative quotes for this renewal.

6. PROPERTY RELATED MATTERS – GUILDHALL:

- i. UPDATE ON MEETING WITH PROPERTY CONSULTANTS – the consultants had been advised regarding the requested modifications but had not yet responded
- ii. LARGE SCREEN AND PROJECTOR: Cllr. Walden asked that Cllr. Young investigate the possibility of financing this facility via lottery funding.

7. PROPERTY RELATED MATTERS – OLD COURTHOUSE:

- a. Museum – the Deputy Clerk had assessed the likely consumption of the dehumidifier over a 12 month period as being £25. Further investigation was needed regarding the relative merits/demerits of sub-meters as opposed to separate supplies to each unit. The existing agreement is based on a sum per unit area inclusive of electricity but with a review option. The unoccupied parts of the Museum do not have any heating at present.

Cllr. Hull felt consideration should be given to relocating some of the activities presently at Pippins to the Museum area. The Town Clerk pointed out that the lack of disabled access remained a problem. Cllr. Hull said that this could be resolved by installation of a lift. It was pointed out that last time this had been investigated it was not seen as a viable option

- b. Senior Citizens' Centre – Cllr. Walden, seconded by Cllr. Hull proposed that the gardener be asked to remove the overgrown elder tree in the Dyer's Garden as soon as possible.

- c. Arts Cafe – the Town Clerk and Cllr. Hayward are working on the terms for the lease. It was noted that the garden did not constitute part of the common area as the Town Council advertises it as a public garden. Exterior decoration does form part of the common parts.
- d. Constable’s Room – nothing to report.

8. PROPERTY RELATED MATTERS – CEMETERY – the Cemetery Committee is seeking quotes for the cost of reducing all the Irish Yews to a height at which they can be managed by the Cemetery Caretakers. There was discussion as to whether 5 or 6 feet would be better with a preference for the latter.

9. PROPERTY RELATED MATTERS – AMENITIES: the Perspex had now been placed in some of the bus shelters, though one sheet had still to be cut to size and there had been problems in obtaining the right seating.

A new contractor will be sought to report on the tree at the Woodbury Park allotments who has the correct qualifications.

10. PROPERTY RELATED MATTERS – PIPPINS: a letter had been received from a tenant requesting certain information. The Town Clerk confirmed that she had asked a different contractor to come and service the gas boiler as the original contractor had failed to do so. She will follow the same course of action in respect of the Fire Alarms and Emergency Lighting. The fire extinguishers are due to be serviced within the next week.

A letter had been received from Devon County Council requesting a decision from the Town Council by 17th August as to what it wished to in respect of Pippins. Cllr. Walden said that he was working on a draft proposal to put to the Town Council to see what offer they would make. Cllr. Young felt that the Town Council was in a catch 22 situation.

11. BANKING ARRANGEMENTS: this process was still on-going. Cllr. Walden expressed concerns regarding the difficulties organisations were having in paying in or getting out coinage when necessary. It may be necessary to go to Honiton, Chard or Seaton. Cllr. Young felt that a letter should be send to Lloyds expressing the Town Council’s unhappiness at the fact that, following the closure of other banks in the town, the branch had taken on so many new accounts knowing that they were no longer going to be providing the service which the new account holders would be expecting.

12. MATTERS OF URGENCY: None.

The Deputy Mayor to propose 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.

13. QUOTES FOR PROPOSED WORKS:

- a. Church Floodlighting - the Town Clerk had not heard back from the contractor as to when the work would start..
- b. Sub-meters at Old Courthouse – this had been discussed under item 7a
- c. Lift Servicing Contract – Cllr. Walden seconded by Cllr. Young proposed that the existing contract be renewed in the sum of £852.54. Agreed.

14 TENANCY MATTERS: already covered.

15. INSURANCE MATTERS: nothing further to report.

Signed Date