

AXMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OLD COURTHOUSE COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE GUILDHALL ON MONDAY, 28TH JANUARY 2019 AT 4.00 P.M.**

1. **PRESENT:** Cllr. P.G. Hayward (Chairman), Cllr. Walden, Cllr. A.L. Young and the Town Clerk
No members of the press and 1 member of the public.

2. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Resolved that the election of a Vice-chairman be deferred until after the May elections.

3. **APOLOGIES :** Cllr. D.R.H. Hull, Cllr. M. Mynard, Cllr. A.J.E. Seward, and the Deputy Town Clerk (Mrs. Z. Adamson-Drage).

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllrs. Walden and Young both declared a personal interest as being members of the Town Twinning Organisation of which two of the tenants are also members.

5. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** these were signed.

6 . **PUBLIC FORUM:** a member of the public gave details of her proposal for use of the former Tourist Information office. Cllr. Walden, seconded by Cllr. Hayward, proposed that this was satisfactory and that the tenancy be approved subject to a formal letter, as from the start of March but with permission to use the space on a storage basis from the start of February. Agreed. The Town Clerk will make enquiries as to whether any planning permissions will be needed for change of use.

7. **MATTERS ARISING:** arrangements for removal of fallen Buddleia are in hand. Advice will be sought on suitable alternative planting where this is necessary. The donor will be contacted if the solar panel on the fountain is broken beyond repair. The Chairman is sourcing a new mower. Verbal assurance had been given to the Town Clerk that the Care Service had looked at the dip in the floor at the Senior Citizen's Centre and did not have any concerns.

8. **GARDEN MATTERS:**

- i. Resolved that any shrubs planted along the south wall of the garden be managed so that they are kept in a good shape. Cllr. Hayward, seconded by Cllr. Young, proposed that seat on this wall be placed within an arbour to prevent encroachment of shrub branches and that the arbour be planted with a suitable soft climbing plant, with the arbour being funded from the Community Benefit Fund. Agreed.
- ii. Resolved that the most recently refurbished seat be placed where the Bevis and Beckingsale seat is at present and that the latter seat be relocated in the corner using met. Posts when it has been refurbished..
- iii. Resolved regarding the existing, unauthorised memorial that this be retained, but removed to a corner location within the garden.

9. **MAINTENANCE WORKS:**

- i. Roof and Guttering – resolved that a contractor be instructed to undertake necessary remedial works as soon as possible on safety grounds and that the lintels over the windows on the frontage be inspected for spalling.
- ii. Other Exterior Works – the notice boards still need to be sorted out.
- iii. Senior Citizens' Centre – nothing to report.
- iv. Arts Cafe – on the basis of logic it was agreed that both upstairs rooms be included in the basic rent.
- v. Former Tourist Information Office – nothing to report.
- vi. Former Museum Premises – there was discussion regarding division of the main courtroom and the creation of common areas for all tenants to ensure all would have access to the fire escape. No details have been obtained regarding sub-metering for electricity.

Signed Date

Cllr Hayward 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. Cllr. Walden seconded the proposal. Agreed.

10. FUTURE USE OF VACANT AREAS WITHIN OLD COURTHOUSE: there was further discussion regarding this and it was noted that approval had been given for the extension of use of the former Courtroom so this space would not be available to let until then at the earliest.

11. REVIEW OF LEASES: still under discussion.

DRAFT

Signed Date