

PUBLIC HALLS COMMITTEE OF WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Monday 16 March 2015

At 6pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall

Present:

Councillor: C K Woodward (Chairman)

Councillors:	D S Enright	Mrs J C Baker
	T J Morris	J S King
	Mrs B J Churchill	R F N Curry
Officers:	Town Clerk	Democratic Services Officer
	RFO	Facilities Supervisor

Also present: Two members of the public

H116 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for her absence was received from Councillor Ms C Curry.

H117 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in matters to be discussed at the meeting.

H118 MINUTES

a) **RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2015 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

b) there were no matters arising from the minutes.

H119 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Members of the public did not wish to address the Council.

H120 OPERATIONAL REPORT

The Committee received and considered the report of the Facilities Supervisor as circulated with the agenda.

The Facilities Supervisor highlighted the situation with regard to the bar franchise and the continuation of this if there wasn't a dedicated bar in the Corn Exchange. A Member commented that as it was a requirement of hiring the Langdale that Inns an Outs ran the bar this was a drag for charitable events as he perceived that this was where most of the money could be made on the bar. The Town Clerk cautioned that there were licensing laws which had to be complied with and that practice of allowing hirers to run their own bars could compromise the licenses.

Cllr Morris has entered the room at 18.10

In answer to a Members question the Town Clerk confirmed that the Burwell Hall bar was also run by Inns and Outs. Based on what the Facilities Supervisor had alluded to the future of this bar facility could also be compromised.

The Town Clerk pointed out that although there was no plan to put a dedicated bar into the Corn Exchange the Charity were looking at a café facility at the front which could double up as a bar when required.

Recommendations:

1. that the report be noted;
2. that Inns & Outs be informed that at the current time there is no plan for a fixed bar in the Corn Exchange however the provision of a café/bar facility will be advertised and they will be invited to tender for the contract;
3. that in the meantime the appropriate licences for the Corn Exchange be applied for.

H121 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Committee received and considered the RFO's report for the third quarter of the financial year circulated with the agenda.

The RFO summarised the position for each hall and the bottom line. A Member commented that it was misleading including the Capital expenditure with the Revenue expenditure and suggested that this be separated out

RECOMMENDED: that the report be noted.

H122 CORN EXCHANGE

The Town Clerk read out a report from Terry Powell summarising the position after a walk around the previous week. Cllr Roger Curry proposed a vote of thanks to Terry Powell for his help and professional advice.

A Member asked about the hot air heating and suggested the noise levels be checked as in the past speakers had not been able to be heard because of the noise generated by the heating.

The Town Clerk requested the Committee think about names for the rooms – as previously they had been known as the Atheneum and Gallery Rooms. A Member suggested leaving it practical, depicting the areas they were, such as the Foyer, Reception, Main Hall etc. However a Member was of the opinion the names should be attractive to members of public, for events - foyer was a bit cold. A Member suggested a schools competition be held.

Having recently passed away, a Member suggested naming a room after the late Walter Hetherington the first Town Clerk.

Recommendation:

1. that the verbal report of Terry Powell and the Town Clerk be noted

2. that the names of the rooms be brought back to the next meeting of this Committee.

As this was the last meeting of this administration, Cllr Roger Curry thanked all Members of the Committee for their support and hard work. It was also acknowledge that this was Facilities Supervisor, Mervyn Hudson's last meeting as he is leaving the Town Council to take up a Facilities Managers position in Bicester. Members wished him well.

The meeting closed at 6.26pm.
