

PUBLIC HALLS COMMITTEE OF WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Monday 24 November 2014
At 6pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Witney

Present

Councillor: R F N Curry (Chairman)

Councillors:	Mrs J C Baker	D S Enright
	A K Beames	C Holliday (Ex Officio)
	Mrs B J Churchill	J S King
	Ms M J C Curry	T J Morris
		C K Woodward

Officers:	Town Clerk	Responsible Financial Officer
	Facilities Supervisor	

Also present: 2 members of the public

H521 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

H522 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

H523 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2014 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

H524 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2014**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 22 September to be discussed.

H525 **OPERATIONAL REPORT**

Members received and considered the report of the Facilities Supervisor as circulated with the agenda. They were unanimous that the halls were a community facility so the charges for local community groups should be subsidised. However Members requested a comparison of hourly charges to session charges to see whether this would generate a better usage rate and income.

RECOMMENDED:

1. that the report be noted
2. that the grant/subsidy allocation be noted

3. that a new pricing structure not be implemented at this time due the future plans for the Corn Exchange and Langdale Hall
4. that the Facilities Supervisor to do a comparison of hourly rates and session rates by booking both options for consumers over the next 6 months and bring a report back to the committee then

H526 **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Committee received and considered the report of the RFO as circulated with the agenda. Members looked at the summary for the Public Halls and noted that Centre 109, Public Hall Capital Projects should be reported separately from the revenue income/expenditure so a clear picture of the running costs could be shown.

RECOMMENDED:

1. that the report be noted
2. that the amendments as suggested to the report format be applied for the next meeting

H527 **CORN EXCHANGE**

The members considered and discussed the report of the Town Clerk and the confidential attachments.

On discussing the two fee proposals from solicitors in respect of setting up the charity, Members had questions. It was suggested that these should be e-mailed through to the Town Clerk in order for her to clarify with the solicitors involved.

The members also discussed the report of the Facilities Supervisor on the fixtures and fittings – those that could be transferred from the Langdale Hall and suggestions of further equipment required for the refurbished Corn Exchange.

RECOMMENDED:

1. that the progress of the refurbishment be noted
2. that the revised fee proposal from Ridge is noted and agreed
3. that the quote for the artist impressions for the public exhibition is agreed
4. that the committee delegates the decision for the appointment of a solicitor for the initial charity set up to the Advisory Board providing member's questions are fully resolved

H528 **MADLEY PARK HALL**

Councillor R Curry declared an interest in this item as he is Chairman of the Madley Hall Park Trust and Councillor Woodward took the chair.

The Committee received and considered the draft lease agreement as circulated with the agenda. It was confirmed that the term was for 7 years from the initial date of occupation in 2011. The

Council's responsibilities pertain to the external fabric of the building whilst the trust would be responsible for the interior. A Member commented that the internal decoration should be every 3 years.

The Committee also received and considered the grant support request from the Madley Hall Park Trust. The Town Clerk confirmed that agreement had been made at a meeting on 7 March 2011 to award a £15,000 grant in the first year and further grants of £10,000 in year two and three.

RECOMMENDED:

1. that the lease for the Madley Hall be agreed
2. that the grant request to draw down £10,000 be agreed

The meeting closed at 6.50 pm

Chairman