

The Chairman explained that this issue had been brought to the Council's attention as the church had recently been denied use of tables. On that occasion the tables were needed by a hirer of the Corn Exchange and the request from the church had been for 20 tables which it had requested be delivered and collected by Council staff. This request also therefore took the table out of use for several days, and there were other hall bookings after the weekend requiring them.

Members wanted to help and support the community but recognised the associated costs in doing so – Council staff would be needed to check the tables in and out, and move them if required. There was also the issue that furniture may well be needed by hall hirers which was the original purpose of it. A member commented that Madley Park Hall did not lend out its furniture any more as it had not been looked after. The Facilities Manager added that for Go Pak tables, training was needed to erect them and put them down.

The Town Clerk pointed out that the Royal British Legion used a Council table for poppy sales in the lead up to Remembrance Day , but this was within the Council's curtilage of the Corn Exchange. Members therefore agreed that the Council should not hire out or loan tables, with the exception of events within its curtilage – i.e. the undercroft and outside of the Corn Exchange.

RECOMMENDED: that the Council policy for dealing with requests from community groups and churches to hire or the loan of tables be:

that with the exception of events within the curtilage of the Town Hall or Corn Exchange, tables/equipment is not to be loaned.

H388 **HALL USAGE FIGURES**

The Committee received and considered hall usage figures.

RECOMMENDED: that the report be noted.

H389 **FINANCIAL REPORT**

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

The Town Clerk explained that the purpose of the report was to focus members' minds on the budget setting process for the forthcoming year, for example curtains for the Corn Exchange. The Town Clerk suggested that members might also like to put a sum aside for a replacement lift, if it was to remain the responsibility of the Town Council. This was thought to be a very good idea and members proposed the sum of £10,000.

RECOMMENDED:

1. that the report be noted;
2. that any budget ideas for the next financial year be forwarded to the RFO by 3 August 2016, but as a Committee it wished to ensure the curtains for the Corn Exchange was included, along with £10,000 towards a replacement lift.

H390 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED: that in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, and as extended by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public, including the press, be excluded from the meeting because of the confidential nature of the following business to be transacted.

Cllr Morris entered at 5.25pm

H391 **CORN EXCHANGE**

The Committee received and considered a confidential verbal report from the Town Clerk, where she updated Members on the outcome of the meeting with the Council's professional advisors and Cllrs Morris, Dorward and Bartington – further details provided in the confidential appendix.

RECOMMENDED:

1. that the confidential verbal report be noted.
2. that a meeting is convened with the Trust, including John Harwood, as soon as possible, following which a Public Halls meeting should be held on how to proceed

H392 **LANGDALE HALL**

The Committee received and considered a confidential verbal report from the Town Clerk, in which she updated Members on the status of Langdale Hall and a proposal she had received, which was commercially sensitive.

Further details of the Town Clerk's confidential verbal report is provided in the confidential appendix.

RECOMMENDED:

1. that the confidential verbal report be noted.
2. that the Town Council applies for planning permission for change of use as detailed in the attached confidential appendix;
3. that the individual who had proposed longer term hire of the hall be advised that the Council is currently re-evaluating its needs;
4. that a press release is issued.

The meeting closed at 5.50pm.

Chairman