

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 25 September 2018

At 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall

Present:

Councillor B J Churchill (Chairman)

Councillors: C Holliday J S King
 H W Chirgwin H B Eaglestone
 D S Enright D Temple
 A McMahon P J Dorward

Officers: Mrs Sharon Groth - Town Clerk
 Mr Adam Claption - PA to the Mayor & Town Clerk
 Mr Peter Miles - Public Halls Officer
 Mr John Hickman - Operations & Estates Officer

12 members of the public

498 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for their absence were received from Cllrs Bartington, Beames, Brown, Doughty, Harvey, Morris and Price.

499 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no interests declared at the meeting.

500 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Council adjourned in line with Standing Order 42 so that Mr A Chalmers from the MuzoAkademy could address the Council regarding agenda item 4, The 7c's Foundation-MuzoAkademy/Rock barn.

The Council reconvened following the presentation.

501 **THE 7C'S FOUNDATION – MUZOAKADEMY/ROCKBARN**

The Council received the correspondence from the MuzoAkademy as circulated with the agenda and an operational report of the Town Clerk presented at the meeting.

Members discussed the proposal from the 7c's Foundation which, following public participation had slightly altered and felt that the Council may be able to assist the MuzoAkademy. There were however clear issues regarding storage, health and safety and future bookings. A considerable amount of money had been spent on the building and establishing regular paying customers, some of which were charities and equally deserving of lower rental charges.

A member proposed that Witney Town Council help MuzoAkademy in the short term while supporting the organisations search for a permanent home with a Working Party being created to enter into negotiations. This proposal was carried by 8 votes with 1 abstention.

In the meantime a calendar of bookings for the immediate future should be discussed with the organisation and any use should be charged at the lowest price rate.

RESOLVED: that Witney Town Council establishes a Working Party to meet at the earliest opportunity to begin negotiations on the hire of rooms at the Corn Exchange, and that;

- a) this is an assured short term stop gap (maximum of 6 months) to enable the MuzoAkademy to continue their work;
- b) hire be offered at the Group 1 price for charity/local organisation;
- c) hire does not conflict with current or future bookings taking place in the Corn Exchange;
- d) the proposed Working Party membership be Cllrs Churchill, Temple, King, Dorward and Holliday;
- e) the Council supports MuzoAkademy in their search for suitable long-term premises.

The meeting closed at 7.27pm

Chairman