

Melksham Town Council

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Thursday 17th August 2023

PRESENT:

Councillor T Price (Deputy Town Mayor)
Councillor P Aves
Councillor G Ellis
Councillor C Goodhind
Councillor S Mortimer
Councillor S Rabey
Councillor J Westbrook

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Hubbard was present virtually

OFFICERS:	Linda Roberts	Town Clerk
	Hugh Davies	Head of Operations
	Andrew Meacham	Committee Clerk

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: One member of the public was present and two members of the public were present virtually. One member of the press was present virtually.

Howard Jones. With the increases in the cost of repairs to the Assembly Hall roof, is the Council going to get further quotes? The Town Clerk advised Mr Jones that the matter had gone to tender and only one quote had been submitted.

Mr Jones asked if the council would look further afield. The Town Clerk explained that the matter had gone through Contract Finder and expressions of interest advertised in the local press and social media. Three expressions of interest were received but only one of those ultimately quoted.

Mr Jones asked how many contractors were on the list. The Town Clerk advised that Contract Finder is national and Europe wide.

Joe McCann – Melksham Independent News - Asset Management & Amenities Committee signed off on a budget of £68000 for KGV lighting but reported at next meeting that cost was higher. Did the agreed amount not meet the tender or did something else occur to increase costs? It was confirmed that a written response would be supplied at the same time as a response to Joe McCann's Freedom of Information Request.

Joe McCann asked if the Council could list the open projects it currently has. A summary was displayed on screen but was not clear. A copy will be emailed to Joe McCann.

Joe McCann asked if the Council had enough money to cover the open projects. It was confirmed that the Council does have sufficient funds.

562/23 Apologises

Apologises were received from The Town Mayor Councillor S Crundell, Councillor Alford, Councillor Cooke, Councillor J Crundell, Councillor Forgacs and Councillor Oatley.

563/23 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

564/23 Cricketers Cafe - Pavilion KGV

Councillor Goodhind asked if the order of items for discussion could be reversed to allow Councillor Hubbard to get to a place where he could safely join the meeting virtually and because a member of the public was present who had raised the matter in public participation. Councillor Ellis said that he would prefer the order to remain as published as he would be raising a point under item 4 which referred back to item. Deputy Town May and Chair of the meeting Councillor Price stated that in that case the running order should remain as published.

Standing Orders were suspended during the discussion to allow Councillor Hubbard to speak.

There was a discussion of Councillor Goodhind and Councillor Hubbard's report and the budget for repairs and refurbishments. The budget for repairs/remedial work is a responsibility the council must take on as landlords. The Town Council will invest the sum of £25000 for refurbishment and the tenant will invest the sum of £25000 and rent payments will include a sum to reflect the Town Council's investment. Councillor Rabey commented that, as stated in the report, the council would retain possession of all improvements, should the tenant break the lease.

There was discussion on the time line of repairs.

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Ave and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to authorise the spend of £29500 to undertake remedial repairs, to be paid from Unplanned Maintenance and £25000 towards refurbishment, to be paid from major projects.

565/23 Assembly Hall Roof

It was generally agreed that £90000 was a lot of money to spend when the Assembly Hall and Blue Pool may be redeveloped but that something needed to be done. Councillors put forward their views on what action to take. At one point standing orders were suspended to allow Councillor Hubbard to speak.

It was suggested to draw a line under the current quote and engage with local contractors. The difficulty experienced so far in getting contractors to quote was pointed out. A question was asked about the terms of the tender and whether a contractor could be asked to quote on bare minimum repairs for differing lengths of time. Members were reminded that the one quote was from a local contractor and discussions could be held with them on the terms suggested.

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Westbrook and

RESOLVED to speak to the contractors who had quoted to obtain quotes for bare minimum patching requirements over differing lengths of time.

It was proposed by The Deputy Mayor and Chair of the meeting Councillor Price, seconded by Councillor Rabey, and

RESOLVED to spend up to £10000 to get a Structural Engineer to analyse the future feasibility of the Assembly Hall and The Blue Pool and come back with their findings as soon as possible.

Meeting Closed at: 8.10 pm

Signed:

Dated: