

THTC/2/2010 - 2011

WOOTTON BASSETT TOWN HALL AND TRUST CHARITY

Minutes of the meeting of the Wootton Bassett Town Hall and Trust Charity held on Thursday 17th February 2011 at the rising of the Council Meeting in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Station Road, Wootton Bassett.

PRESENT: Councillors: Mary Champion, Peter Doyle, Susan Doyle, Linda Frost, Owen Gibbs, Paul Heaphy, Peter Roberts, William Roberts, Jenny Stratton, Ernie Taylor and Steve Walls.

Officers in Attendance: Johnathan Bourne, Town Clerk,
Michelle Temple, Administrative
Team Leader.

7. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mike Leighfield, Audrey Wannell and Chris Wannell.

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Declarations of Interest in accordance with the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007.

RESOLVED to note that no declarations of interest were made.

9. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED to confirm and sign minutes of a meeting of the Wootton Bassett Town Hall and Trust Charity held on Thursday 15th July 2010 (THTC/1/2010- 2011). Copy previously circulated.

10. RENEWAL OF DISPENSATION

On 23rd July 2007 the North Wiltshire District Council Standards Committee renewed the Town Council dispensation in respect of the handling of the Town Trust for a further 4 years. The purpose of the dispensation is to allow the Town Council to manage the Town Trust, taking decisions that benefit the Trust without these being declared invalid.

Although the Standards regime is changing the Trust is asked to authorise that a further dispensation be sought.

RESOLVED to accept the recommendation.

11. MARKET RENTS

Report from the Town Clerk.

The purpose of the report was to ask Members to review the rental charges for both the weekly Wednesday market and the Monthly Farmers market.

It was recommended to the Town Trust that it [a] confirm that no charge be levied to the Wiltshire Farmers Market in the forthcoming financial year, [b] should continue with its policy of freezing the market rents for the Wednesday market in the hope that this will, in turn, continue to act as an attraction to new market traders.

RESOLVED to accept the first recommendation in respect of the Wiltshire Farmers market, but delegate the Town Clerk to not only freeze the existing market rents but offer a discount scheme for the Wednesday market traders, particularly where they encourage new traders to attend the market.

12. CONTINENTAL MARKETS

It was the Trust practice to organise 2 or 3 continental markets during the course of a year. Recognising the challenges faced by local traders the Trust

decided to suspend the continental markets, the last one being held in June 2009.

It has now been suggested that the Trust should resume the practice of licensing continental markets and in particular the Town Council's Events Working Party has asked the feasibility of attracting a German Market during the Christmas festive period be explored.

The Chamber of Commerce has been asked to comment on this proposal and their response should be available before this meeting, although the initial feedback has been positive.

The Trust was asked to consider this matter.

RESOLVED to recommence the practice of booking continental markets starting with a German Market over the Christmas period 2011.

13. TOWN HALL – MAINTENANCE

Maintenance of the Town Hall falls broadly into two areas: large scale programme maintenance and miscellaneous day-to-day. In the case of the former, the Trust has now established a 5 year rolling maintenance programme which is now in its final year. George Chedburn inspected the building in October 2010 and is currently finalising a new 5 year programme. This will be circulated upon receipt.

Failing paintwork from the last contract has now been addressed through a return visit by the Contractor concerned and damage to the pillars caused by icy conditions will be addressed as part of the next programme, as they do not pose any immediate risk to the building.

Returning to day-to-day maintenance Ralph White has met Steve Walls on site and dealt with the majority of items identified. One outstanding issue is the replacement of 5 fluorescent tubes with lighting bars which was requested by the Museum development group. The quotation is within the

Town Clerk's normal spending authority it is therefore proposed that this be dealt with in the same way, as if it was an item of Town Council's business.

RESOLVED to note the above.

14. WOOTTON BASSETT MUSEUM AND HERITAGE GROUP

To receive a report from Mr Steve Walls, Chairman of the Wootton Bassett Museum & Heritage Group about the work of that organisation since the last meeting.

Councillor Walls advised that the Wootton Bassett Museum and Heritage Group had recently received a £916 grant from the Area Board. Its forthcoming initiatives include:-

- A celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Museum's opening.
- A display by the Royal British Legion.
- A display of the High Street through the ages
- Steve Walls also explained that the new heater is in and working, and that the Museum and Heritage Group intend to hold their AGM in March.

Councillor Steve Walls introduced Dave Comley, who gave a presentation about the possible sale of items from the Museum. The Trust's permission was sought to authorise this work.

RESOLVED that a letter of authorisation be given to the Museum and Heritage Group to help facilitate this work.

There was a brief discussion about the Fire Engine, and some thoughts were given to whether this could perhaps be located in the Church or on the new campus site.

The Town Clerk advised a report would be brought back to the Town Trust in due course about the future of the Newsham Fire Pump.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Steve Walls for his report.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm