

MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the **Property Committee** held on the **9th July, 2012** in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough, at 8.35 pm.**

PRESENT	Councillor G. Loosmore Councillor Mrs E. Fogg Councillor G Francis Councillor A. Kirk Wilson Councillor Mrs P. Dow Councillor A. Ross Councillor N. Barrett-Morton	Chairman Mayor
ALSO PRESENT	Mr. D. Wolfe Councillor B. Castle Councillor S. Dobson Councillor Mrs. M. Rose	Town Clerk

167/12 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

168/12 **DECLARATION(S) OF INTEREST**

Councillors Loosmore and Ross declared prejudicial interests in agenda item 12, regarding KVAT's quotation, by virtue of being trustees.

169/12 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

It was reported that Pickering's Lifts had recently replied to the Town Clerk's letter, stating that the Company was not prepared to waive a portion of their original supply and installation costs. This being the case, it was noted that the Company's outstanding invoice would now be settled.

170/12 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Property Committee's meeting held on 28th May 2012 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

171/12 **REPORT ON TOWN COUNCIL PROPERTIES**

The Committee considered the contents of the Town Clerk's report concerning the present situation relating to the Council's property portfolio. Councillor Castle asked about the outcome of the competitive quotations sought in respect of new hand-dryers in the Town Hall toilets. Councillor Dobson advised that action needed to be taken in

respect of a large hole which had appeared in the roof structure of one of the Council's bus shelters. Councillor Ross questioned the use of some of the Property Committee's expenditure allocation of £12,000 in respect of Chantry Lane toilets for carrying out some internal redecoration works.

RESOLVED: that those issues highlighted by Councillors with regard to specific properties be dealt with appropriately by the relevant officers.

172/12

**DISCUSSION CONCERNING POSSIBLE TOWN HALL REFURBISHMENTS 10
2012-13**

a) Outcome of Site Visit on 5th July.

The Chairman reported that he and most members of the Town Council had visited and inspected the Town Hall toilets, noting that there were lots of potential alternative options forward for consideration by the Committee in due course. However, he was hopeful that quotes would soon be forthcoming from a specialist contractor.

b) Outcome of Call-in Considered by Town Council

The Committee was advised of the outcome of the Council's consideration of Min. No. 62/12 of the Property Committee's meeting held on 28th May. The contents of the call-in, invoked in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 34, had been received and noted by the Council at its meeting on 2nd July.

c) Outcome of Actions Requested of the Town Clerk by the Committee at its last meeting.

The Town Clerk reported that pursuant to Min. No.62/12 of the Committee's previous meeting, he had carried out the actions requested of him at that time. He advised that as yet, he had no new information to report to the Committee beyond that already imparted to the Town Council at its meeting on 2nd July, as set out in Min. No. 143/12 of that meeting.

RESOLVED: to note that quotations from a specialist contractor and further information from the Town Clerk was awaited in respect of items (a) and (c) respectively above.

173/12

LIGHTING IN THE TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER

RESOLVED: to note that a quotation from Lighting of Distinction for the various items of work reported to the Committee as being required was awaited.

174/12

REQUEST FOR FREE USE OF TOWN HALL BY LOCAL ORGANISATION

Councillors were advised that an application had recently been received from Roger Grant on behalf of the Marlborough Community Choir regarding the use of the Town Hall during the evening of Wednesday 19th December for a Christmas Concert to incorporate various local acts for charity. He had said that he hoped the Council would allow MCC the use of the Town Hall without charge as it will be for local charities and for the entertainment of the Marlborough community.

After some discussion by Councillors, it was generally felt that rather than granting the use of the Town Hall free of charge, it would be more appropriate to offer it to MCC at the rate usually reserved for charitable organisations, especially as concern was expressed that this might otherwise set a precedent, in terms of other local organisations expecting the same treatment.

RESOLVED: that Marlborough Community Choir be informed that the Committee considered it would be more appropriate to offer the use of the Town Hall during the evening of 19th December to MCC at the rate usually reserved for charities.

175/12 POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF DEFIBRILLATORS IN MARLBOROUGH BY THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Committee agreed to suspend Standing Order 5 (xxiv) to allow a representative of the Friends of Savernake Hospital to address Councillors. The representative restated the Friends' suggestion, namely that the Town Council be asked to assume responsibility for the 8 defibrillators located in Marlborough, carrying out minor maintenance roles each week in relation to each of the machines, a task which should only take a few minutes per machine. He added that he had e-mailed a briefing note to the Council prior to the meeting, however the Town Clerk advised that this had not been received.

In response to questions from Councillors Dobson and Francis, the representative considered that the Friends would consider providing funding for any replacement parts required, noting that some parts would need replacing every few years or so. Councillor Jackson spoke in favour of the Town Council assuming responsibility for the defibrillators in future, but subject to appropriate funding being made available by the Friends of Savernake Hospital Trust. Councillor Dow felt that if the Council had any expectation that the tasks involved would fall upon existing members of staff, then the Council should consult with them first. Councillor Kirk Wilson took the view that the tasks involved could be carried out by volunteers.

RESOLVED: that in view of the funding issues raised by Councillors, and in view of the non-receipt of the Friends' briefing paper, this whole issue be deferred and considered afresh at the Committee's next meeting, together with the additional information requested in relation to those specific issues raised this evening.

176/12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: that the next scheduled meeting of the Committee programmed for 20th August be cancelled, and that instead the Committee would meet again on Monday 3rd October at 7pm.

177/12 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, the press and public be now excluded from the remainder of the meeting, in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

178/12

KVAT QUOTATION IN RESPECT OF FILM SCREENINGS AND ASSOCIATED REVENUE COSTS – OUTCOME OF CALL-INS CONSIDERED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL

Councillors were advised that at its meeting on 2nd July, the Town Council had agreed in principle to support the purchase and installation of the additional equipment referred to in the quotation obtained by KVAT, subject to the total cost not exceeding £10,000 and subject to the submission of the previously requested information concerning labour costs to the Property Committee's next meeting.

RESOLVED: to note that following the Council's in-principle acceptance of a quotation obtained by the Kennet Valley Arts Trust, issues relating to equipment intended for installation in the Town Hall would be brought back to this Committee in due course, along with information regarding labour costs, once this was available.

The meeting ended at 9.36 pm

Signed
Chairman

Dated