

MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the **Property Committee** held on the **10th March, 2014** in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough at 7.00 pm.**

PRESENT	Councillor N. Barrett-Morton Councillor G. Loosmore Councillor A. Ross Councillor R. Allen Councillor B. Lam Councillor A. Light	Chairman Town Mayor
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ALSO PRESENT	Mrs S. Parker Mrs S. Fry Councillor B. Castle Councillor A. Kirk Wilson	Town Clerk Office Manager Observing Observing
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521/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S. Dobson, Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson and N. Fogg.

522/13 DECLARATION(S) OF INTEREST
Cllrs. Loosmore and Ross both declared non-pecuniary interests as Trustees of KVAT with regard to the agenda item dealing with Town Hall hire charges.

523/13 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
The Town Hall maintenance works were ongoing.

The clearing of the Town Hall gutters would take place on Sunday, 30th March enabling work to start on eliminating damp in the Council Chamber.

There appeared to have been a slight subsidence issue on the north side of the Town Hall and advice was being sought from a structural engineer.

524/13 MINUTES
RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Property Committee's meeting held on 6th January, 2014 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record

525/13 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT
The Town Clerk's report was noted.

In response to a query about specialist workmanship to pillars in the foyer of the Town Hall, the Town Clerk explained that during an exercise to obtain quotes for remedial work, it had been brought to her attention that advice had to first be sought from the

Conservation Officer. Work undertaken in previous years had not been finished to a satisfactory standard and taken forward without proper conservation advice.

526/13 REPORT ON TOWN COUNCIL PROPERTIES

The contents of the Office Manager's report about Council-owned properties were noted. It was agreed that the repositioning/removal of the telephone box on London Road be discussed at the next meeting of this committee.

527/13 TOWN HALL WORKS

The contents of the Town Clerk's report were noted. The following issues were discussed –

- That the completion of the stonework to the steps at the front of the Town Hall be pursued via the commissioning architect
- Whether the flushing out of radiators was necessary to improve the efficiency of the heating system
- A request for clarification on a payment made relating to Town Hall works and that a breakdown should be passed on to Councillor Allen
- That a review should be carried out on the current boiler maintenance contract.

528/13 TOWN HALL WORKING PARTY

The Notes of the Working Party meeting were noted with one minor amendment relating to a proposed charge for the Court Room.

Members considered the recommendation made by the Working Party around increased hire charges and a request by KVAT for reduced charges for weekend hire.

The Town Clerk reminded Members that a resolution to raise the charges by 3% for 2014/15 had been made by the Property Committee on 7th October 2013 (Min.282/13). These fees come into effect on 1 April 2014 and had already been published and charges implemented for new bookings. Six months had not passed since that resolution had been made.

Under Standing Order 11 a) a decision cannot be rescinded within 6 months except by special motion, the written notice whereof bears the names of at least 6 Councillors of the Council, or by a motion in pursuance of the report or recommendation of a committee.

RESOLVED: (i) that the Town Clerk write to KVAT informing them that a request for reduced hiring fees for weekend bookings had been turned down
(ii) that the new rates for Town Hall hirings be brought to the next meeting of the Property Committee and a resolution made to reverse the decision and increase the charges for 2014/15 as suggested but honour those bookings already made. All new bookings would then be charged at the new rate.

529/13 FLAG POLE

The Town Clerk's report was noted.

RESOLVED: (i) that the re-sale value of the flag pole be investigated and that if of little value then local groups and organisations be contacted to see if it would be of benefit to them.

(ii) that new ropes be purchased for the flagpole at the top of the Town Hall and that the Town Clerk contact Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service about the possibility of assistance with the fixing of new ropes. If not possible, then alternative methods of fixing the ropes are explored. Also that costings for additional hand rails in the loft area be obtained.

530/13

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

531/13

COURT ROOM KITCHEN

Members considered quotations received for the refurbishment of the Court Room kitchen. Following discussion and an adjournment to visit the kitchen, it was –

RESOLVED: that the preferred supplier carry out the total refurbishment of the Court Room kitchen. Following the removal of the tiles, professional clarification to be sought about the need to plasterboard the walls, rather than to skim them directly.

The meeting closed at 8.17 pm

Signed
Chairman

Date